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If you use the correct tackle, sometimes you can actually catch more giant bluefish—as the author of *Ugly Stik Gorillagators* found out. See the article on page 17.

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THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE
TABLE LURES
with Helen Groll

SHRIMPLY DELICIOUS!

With the sharp increase in the price of all shellfish within the last few years, we have come to regard shrimp as somewhat of a luxury item, only to be served on special occasions. However, since we love the flavor of these succulent crustaceans so much, we hated to relegate them to a position of a once-in-awhile treat. While we may not have come up with the perfect solution, we did find a fairly good compromise. While we still serve shrimp as a main course for special events, we have found some tasty recipes that will make only one pound of shrimp go a long way. By combining the shellfish with stir-fry vegetables, for instance, or by serving up the tasty morsels as an appetizer. The dishes in the photo are a good case in point. All three were made from one pound of shrimp. The sweet and sour dish is expanded by the addition of some crisp vegetables and pineapple tidbits. The shrimp balls and the puff-fried shrimp make an interesting, but light, appetizer for any meal, with three or four sufficient for most normal appetites.

A few words about buying shrimp and some basic notes on preparation are in order here; so here we go. Shrimp can be purchased in a number of different sizes and come fresh (called green, by fishmongers), freshly cooked, frozen (with or without shells and cooked or fresh) and canned. For most of the following recipes medium sized green shrimp are the best, but frozen will do. In my opinion, those that are frozen and unshelled have the best flavor. The frozen cooked shrimp seem to have a rubbery texture for some reason and those that are frozen and shelled seem to sometimes have a somewhat off-taste. You can defrost the frozen shrimp in the refrigerator or in a sinkful of cold water. If you want to boil them, don't bother with defrosting but cook them directly from the frozen state, without removing the shells. Boiled shrimp, frozen or otherwise, taste better if you add a spoonful or so of pickling spice to the water or perhaps some lemon juice or white wine. They also seem to taste better if you boil them in the shells and peel them later. In any recipe that calls for peeling the shrimp first, save the shells to flavor your shellfish broth. You can freeze them until you have a good enough quantity and then add some herbs and spices and make a tasty seafood soup base or a delicate court bouillon in which to poach your fish. Canned shrimp, while it certainly has neither the taste or texture of the real McCoy, can be used to advantage in dips and salads. The tiny Scandinavian shrimp that come in glass jars are especially good. Serve them on very thin dark bread that has been spread with dill butter. Don't neglect the possibility of using just a handful of shrimp to add flavor and elegance to fish soups and chowders.

So you see, you can buy just one pound of shrimp and make more than one meal with it if you take advantage of it as a flavor accent in the meal rather than the main course.

Sweet & Sour Shrimp

If you serve this with a generous amount of fluffy white rice and some vegetable side dishes, it will serve 4 to 6 people.

Shell, devein and cut in bite-sized morsels 1/2 lb. of shrimp. Coat the shrimp with a mixture of corn starch, salt and pepper and lightly brown the pieces in some hot oil in a skillet and set them aside. In a saucepan combine 2 sliced carrots, 1 green pepper, sliced and seeded, 3 scallions cut in 1½" lengths and 2 slices of canned pineapple. Add 1/2 cup cider vinegar, 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 cup chicken stock and 1/4 tsp. salt to the vegetables. Bring the mixture to a boil and simmer for 10 minutes; then gradually stir in 1 tablespoon corn starch mixed with 2 tablespoons of water until the sauce is thickened and clear.

Add the fried shrimp to the sauce and allow them to heat up before serving.

Puff Shrimp

You can serve these with your favorite cocktail sauce or bottled Chinese "Duck" sauce and they will keep warm in the oven while you wait for your guests to arrive without becoming soggy.

Shell and devein 12 large shrimp, but leave the tails on. Cut them lengthwise almost, but not completely and open them out into butterfly shape. Make a batter by combining 1½ cups flour with 1 tablespoon baking powder and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Stir 1/2 cup of oil into the dry ingredients until you have a ball of dough that's starting to pull away from the sides of the bowl. Now gradually add 1 cup of cold water or flat beer until the batter is about the consistency of pancake batter. Dip the shrimp in and deep fry them until golden brown. Drain them on paper toweling before serving.

Deep Fried Shrimp Balls

Serve these with bottled cocktail sauce or just a sprinkle of salt and pepper. This recipe makes enough to serve 8 people as an appetizer. Shell and chop 1 lb. of raw shrimp and combine it with 1/4 cup fresh pork fat. This is most easily done by using your blender. You should have a fine pasty mixture. Combine 1 slice of white bread, torn in bits with 2 tablespoons of cold water and mash until you have a fine paste. Combine this with the shrimp and pork fat and add 4 finely chopped water chestnut, 1 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon finely minced fresh ginger and 1 egg yolk. Beat the white of 1 egg until frothy and stir it into the mixture. Heat 3 cups of oil in a deep fryer until hot, but not smoking. Make the balls by using about 1 tablespoon of the mixture for each one, scooped up with your fingers. Round them, then drop them in the hot oil and fry until golden (2 to 3 minutes). Drain on paper toweling and serve.

Shrimp Salad

This is one nice way to make one cup of canned shrimp serve 4 persons. Perfect for a light luncheon, it also makes a good sandwich spread.

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Combine 1 cup of small canned shrimp with 1/4 cup diced celery, 1/4 cup chopped scallions and 1 cup of diced, seeded and peeled cucumber. Add 1 tablespoon of minced capers and 1/4 cup mayonnaise. Season to taste with salt and pepper and serve on a bed of lettuce.

Favorite Shrimp Dip

Another good way to use canned shrimp, this dip is a sure hit at parties.

Combine 1 cup of cultured sour cream with 1 tablespoon chopped parsley, 1 tablespoon chopped chives, 1 teaspoon dried tarragon, a dash of curry powder and salt and pepper to taste. Mash a small can of shrimp, after draining it and stir into the dip. You can add more sour cream to make a thinner dip if you wish. Serve with toast, crackers or chips.

Shrimp Fritters

You can make these tasty little cakes with frozen cooked shrimp or canned shrimp and they make an interesting cocktail tidbit.

Have ready 1 cup of finely chopped, cooked shrimp. Dissolve 1 cake of yeast or 1 package of dry yeast in 1 cup of lukewarm water and let it sit until bubbles form. Combine 3 cups of flour and 1 teaspoon salt in a mixing bowl and stir in the yeast mixture. Beat the dough well until it's thick and smooth, then cover it with a cloth and allow it to rise in a warm spot for about one hour. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured board and knead it for a few minutes. Then knead in the shrimp, bit by bit. Cut the dough, which should now be smooth and satiny into 2'' pieces that are 1/4'' thick. Heat 1'' of oil in a skillet until hot, but not smoking and add the fritters a few at a time. Fry until golden brown, turning once, and drain on paper toweling before serving.

Roquefort Stuffed Shrimp

These make a very rich and satisfying appetizer; so one or two served with some other tidbits will suffice for each serving. Boil 1 lb. of large shrimp in water to cover, seasoned with 1/2 teaspoon pickling spice until done. Shell the shrimp and split them by cutting them lengthwise, almost, but not completely through. Combine in a bowl: 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/2 cup of finely minced celery, 1/8 lb. roquefort cheese, and 1/8 lb. cream cheese. When well blended, stir in 1 tablespoon mayonnaise and pepper to taste. Stuff the shrimp with the cheese mixture and roll each one in fresh, minced parsley. Chill before serving.

Pasta Seafood Medley

Here we combine shrimp with other seafood to make a hearty main dish that will serve 6. Heat 3/4 cups of olive oil in a kettle and add 3/4 cups chopped parsley, 1/2 cup of finely chopped green pepper and 3 cloves of minced and peeled garlic. Saute the vegetables briefly, then add 1 can (2 lb. 3 oz.) Italian plum tomatoes, including the liquid from the can. Season this mixture to taste with basil, cayenne pepper and salt. Simmer for five minutes while you preheat your oven to 350°. Now add 12 cherrystone clams (in their shells) and 18 shelled and deveined shrimp, along with 1/2 lb. of boneless cod fillet. Simmer for 10 minutes while you cook 1 lb. of rigatoni for exactly ten minutes. Add the pasta to the seafood sauce along with 3 tablespoons butter and bake in a covered casserole for 20 minutes. Serve with grated cheese and plenty of crisp bread to savor the sauce with.

Shrimp Provencale

This will serve four persons as a light luncheon dish or an elegant first course. Peel 1 large tomato and cut it in cubes. Heat 3 tablespoons of butter in a skillet and add the tomato cubes along with 2 cloves of peeled and minced garlic, 3 tablespoons white wine, 1/2 cup of chopped mushrooms and salt, pepper and oregano to taste. While the sauce simmers, dredge 1 lb. of peeled and deveined shrimp with seasoned flour and fry them in 1'' of oil until done. Arrange the shrimp in serving dishes, spoon the sauce over and serve.

Shrimp Pizzas

Great as a snack or appetizer!

Have ready some cooked shrimp; canned will do. Make a cocktail sauce by combining chili sauce, horseradish, Worchestershire sauce and tabasco in whatever proportions your taste buds dictate. Spread the cocktail sauce on toast slices and then top each slice with four shrimp and some slice green olives. Top each slice with a thin slice of provolone or mozzarella cheese and broil until the cheese is melted (about 3 minutes). Serve with some cole slaw and pickles on the side.

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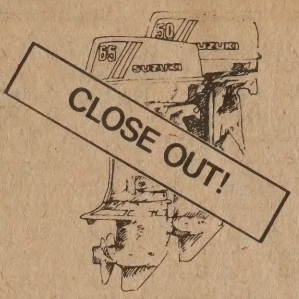

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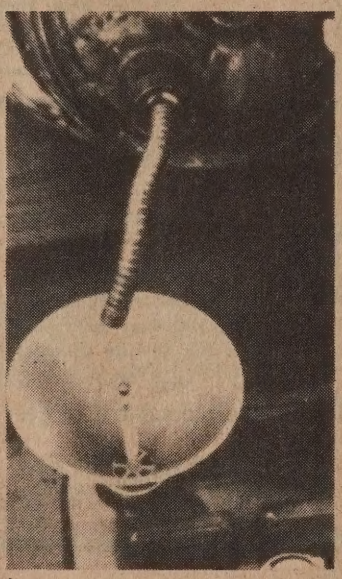
BLUEFIN TUNA PURSE SEINE FISHERY

Allen Peterson, Northeast Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, (NMFS), announces that the 1979 purse seine catch of school-size bluefin tuna amounted to 1,125 tons. School-size tuna are those ranging in weight from 14 to 115 pounds and in age from about a year and a half to six years. The purse seine fishery for school-size bluefin that began in early June lasted just over a week this year. Four vessels with a carrying capacity of over 1,000 tons participated in the fishery.

The United States is obligated by an international convention to implement recommendations of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The Commission has recommended that in order to maintain the populations of Atlantic bluefin tuna at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch for food and other purposes, catch levels must be imposed by member nations. To implement the recommendations of the Commission and the provisions of the international convention, the United States passed the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975. Under the authority of this Act quotas and catch levels were established by regulation to limit the catch of bluefin tuna.

When the purse seine fishery began early in June, the catch set by federal regulations allowed a 800-ton catch of school-size tuna. During the second week of June, the Atlantic bluefin tuna regulations were amended. Final regulations set the seine quota for school-size tuna at 650 tons. The reduction in the school-size seine quota is intended to shift the catch away from immature tuna, and allow more of these fish to mature and spawn. It is believed that such action will serve to help rehabilitate the overall bluefin tuna population in the Northwestern Atlantic Ocean.

Nets measuring over a half mile long and suspended down more than a 200 feet from the surface are used by the purse seine vessels to encircle the schools of tuna. Once the tuna are encircled, the net is drawn back to the seine vessel and the tuna are brailed on board. Most of the school tuna are processed into canned tuna.



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CLUB NEWS

N.B.S.F.C. SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The North Brookhaven Sport Fishermen's Club Inc. would like to announce that we have new membership openings. We are interested in boat or surf fishermen who will participate in club functions. Meetings are held the second Monday of every month except the October meeting which is Wednesday the 10th due to Columbus Day, at 8:00 p.m. We meet at the Shoreham Rec. Center, one quarter mile east of Wm. Floyd Parkway just north of Shoreham High School on 25A.

For further information contact Steve Kellner, Corresponding Secretary at 516-928-9343.

NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Are Cod Coming Back?

As noted in this column several times during the past couple of years, the 1975 year class of cod has provided the basis for a substantial increase in the commercial fishery. Except for some brief spurts of fishing off Block Island in the spring, Long Island fishermen really haven't received much benefit from that strong year class thus far; but our time could be coming!

No one on Long Island has to be reminded that our recreational fishery for cod is in a deep slump. There is still some fishing at Montauk, but it's declined to such an extent that only one party boat, the "Viking Starship" continues to sail for cod throughout the summer. During the Sixties, you could choose from among two or three other boats on any summer day. The decline in the winter fishery is even more dramatic. Mid-winter codfishing at Montauk has become a weekend only proposition, as many of the boats have turned to commercial tilefishing and the "Viking Starship" has taken up residence in Key West for the winter. Further west, the situation is far more severe. In recent years, codfish boats have taken to bragging about days on which they could average one cod per man. The fishing has been so poor that many have just switched over to ling and whiting—species that are abundant, but don't bring out the big crowds once associated with the codfish season. Off the Jersey Coast, the fishery is literally dead. No one fishes for cod on a regular basis, and the only trips made are special long distance runs.

Historically, there has always been an abundance of cod in the mid-Atlantic area from late fall through early spring. A document analyzing the status of the southern New England-middle Atlantic cod populations, recently prepared by Fredric M. Serchuk and Paul W. Wood of the Woods Hole Lab, cites historical data indicating that cod were a staple part of local fisheries as far back as records go. A letter from a Dutch visitor in 1667 stated that: "Trials have been made several times this spring for codfish with very good success. A small ketch sent out by the Governor has found several good fishing banks; amongst the rest, one not above two or three leagues from Sandy Hook on which, in a few hours, four men took eleven or twelve hundred excellent good cod the last time they were out..." Another letter spoke of cod being available off Delaware Bay throughout the year, though the fishing was only profitable in the cold months.

The commercial catch of cod from Rhode Island to Virginia has always been much smaller than that taken in areas north of us. However, it has often been quite substantial. The earliest records (in 1880) indicate a mid-Atlantic catch of 4,794 metric tons. A peak was reached in 1930, when the catch came to 9,625 metric tons—18.9% of total domestic landings. The long term average for the period in which statistics are considered reliable (1929-1978) indicate an average commercial catch of 2,360 metric tons per years. At 2,344 tons, the 1978 catch was just about average—though the highest recorded in our area since 1961. Commercial catch records aren't a reliable indicator of abundance, as the effort involved in catching the fish can vary greatly depending upon such factors as price and the relative abundance of alternate species. Presumably, the restrictions on yellowtail flounder fishing have pushed some otter trawlers into codfishing during the winter.

While there may not be many surprises relative to the commercial statistics, the recreational figures do provide food for thought. Prior to 1974, the recreational fishing surveys didn't provide state-by-state breakdowns, and also divided the northeast into Maine to New York and New Jersey to North Carolina sections that make assessment of the actual mid-Atlantic catch impossible. However, in 1960 (when the Maine-New York catch was estimated to be 11,426 metric tons), the New Jersey to North Carolina area was credited with 2,590 metric tons. That latter figure was over seven hundred tons more than commercial fishermen took in the same states that year! The 1974 survey did provide a state-by-state breakdown which indicated a recreational catch of 8,504 metric tons from Rhode Island south—a catch about 4.5 times the domestic commercial catch from the same area! Since the vast majority of the commercial catch in this region comes from Rhode Island (1,472 of 1,848 metric tons in 1974), these figures would be even more lopsided in favor of the sport fishing interest in cod in the mid-Atlantic if restricted to the states from New York south.

In other words, the sport fishing interest in cod in our area has been paramount for at least the last two decades, though the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has literally paid no attention to it. Traditionally, the southern New England-mid-Atlantic cod stocks have been tied to those of Georges Bank. Yet, there is also a good indication that there may indeed be several different stocks within this one grouping. J. P. Wise, in 1962, broke the cod stocks down into four major groups: (1) Gulf of Maine; (2) Georges Bank; (3) Southern New England and South Channel, and (4) New Jersey cod which summer in southern New England. Further studies have indicated that there is little mixing between the Gulf of Maine and Georges Banks groups, but considerable interchange between the two southern groups. From the mid-Atlantic viewpoint, it's important that the stocks we fish be separated from those on Georges Bank—a very important commercial fishing ground. If they are recognized as separate stocks, management measures can be taken to provide controls which will permit rebuilding of the stocks to historical levels—taking into account the particular importance of the sport fisheries throughout the area and the necessity for high stock levels in local waters in order that these fisheries may be successfully prosecuted. One of my last acts as a Mid-Atlantic Council member was to offer a resolution (unanimously accepted) asking NMFS to initiate tagging studies which would better define these stocks.

The report by Woods Hole on the status of the stocks to the west of Georges is a hopeful sign. That report notes that more work must be done in order to further delineate these stocks. It also speculates that the abundant 1975 year class that has been fueling the increased commercial catches of the past two years will be an important factor in the winter recreational fishery of 1979. Certainly, the results observed on Coxes Ledge this summer would seem to indicate that cod populations in our region are improving. Reports from the "Viking Starship" and Rhode Island boats, indicate that this was the best summer in many years—with a particular abundance of market cod, most of which probably come from that strong 1975 year class. Whether these fish will move as far west as they traditionally did in the past remains to be seen, but at least the signs are encouraging. In the meantime, we must keep pushing for resolution of the stock identification issue—as that may well be the most important factor in maintaining future control of our region's cod.

FISH TALK

with Dr. William A. Muller

FISH NEWS & FISHY NEWS

KEEPING THE NOSE INTO THE WIND! When you write a weekly column that may drift from fishing techniques to ecological curiosities as I do, you learn to keep your nose pointed into the wind in order to pick up the scent of anything in the world of fishing that might smell important. People get to know this fact of character and fortunately, they send me items clipped out of magazines and newspapers that I otherwise would miss. Operating under the principle that you can't read everything that's printed in your areas of interest, I appreciate the help that friends and readers give me.

ITEMS FROM KRAUSS! Fishing buddy Bob Krauss gave me several interesting items, including a few tidbits from Outdoor Life. A short piece asks the question, will the sand eel explosion eventually become a plague? This isn't the first time that I have seen written suspicions about the upswing in the sand eel population. This latest doubt is a result of the observation of South Carolina fishermen that sand eels were found in the stomachs of bluefish caught in that state. The southern limit to the range of the sand eel is supposed to be Cape Hatteras and thus folks are wondering whether or not these tiny bait fish will eventually take over the ocean. Little chance of that happening, friends; but the glut of these bait fish does point out two very important facts about fish populations. First, when a species experiences several good year classes and the population density of that species increases markedly throughout its range, the species will spread out beyond its normal range because of competition for food and space. When the population peak has passed, the range will recede to normal and if the species should decline markedly, the range will shrink. This may spell a little optimism for striped bass. The Chesapeake stocks have been declining, while there have been about three good year classes in the Hudson River. Normally, according to many experts, the normal range of the Hudson striped bass is out in the Sound to Eaton's Neck and down the New Jersey coast a ways, and then out to about Fire Island Inlet on the South Shore. Again, the range expands and contracts like an accordian, according to the size of the stock: after all, there are now lines drawn on the bottom. However, fishermen have reported concentrations of small bass beyond this normal range, suggesting that the Hudson stripers are migrating beyond the usual limits of their range because competition within the range is great and competition beyond the range is slight owing to the lack of their cousins from the south. Why might this be a cause for optimism? Because each stock of bass has slightly different genetics and, therefore, if the Chesapeake fish are having trouble succeeding as the reports suggest, then Hudson fish with slightly different genetic information, may migrate south, mix with the southern stocks during spawning, and pass on genetic information that may help the southern stocks overcome their present problems. It may be built into the system through evolution.

THE SECOND POINT illustrated by the glut of the sand eels is that fish populations are rarely stable, but rather fluctuate between periods of abundance and scarcity. I see signs in Long Island Sound that the sand eels are past their prime and have begun a decline. It may be just a dip in the curve or it could be the beginning of a continuous pattern. We will have to wait and see. Anyway, weakfish, blues, bass, spearing, blowfish, kingfish, bunker, etc., have all gone through periods of abundance and scarcity in the span of my generation. Thus, no matter how abundant a species may be at a given moment or how rare it may be—take heart: it will probably either become scarce or abundant again if you just wait a few years.

ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES! John Bacchino of the Bronx recently had some criticisms of the column. "I want to recall one of your earlier articles of June 7, #23, **Striped Bass Issues**, you were commenting on the shortage of small bass. There is a shortage of small bass, but not that big a shortage, because we picked up many small bass this year in a place by City Island called Turtle Cove. These bass ranged from five to twenty inches. I think any person with any fishing ability could write an article like you write. In this article you wrote, you had a letter from Juan Cabrera of the Bronx who asked where he could fish on Long Island. Any of us could have summed it up in a couple of words—from Jones Beach West End II to Montauk Point. Your answers are so vast that any person could have bought a map to find these places. You never mentioned what kind of pole to use, what kind of lures, or what tide to fish. I know I am not saying anything good about qualities, but I would like to have your reply." You're quite right, John; I did answer in very general terms—but let's see why. If someone is just getting started in surf fishing, information provided in great detail may be of little value and could even be dangerous. Suppose I had taken the entire article to detail surf fishing on the West End jetty. I would tell about creepers, and long-handled gaffs, big stiff sticks, conventional vs. spinning reels, fifty pound test line, foul weather gear, etc., and then the fella might have gone out and killed himself on those rocks. The beginner must start at the beginning. Even the most basic information such as the access at State Parks can only be picked up by the beginner if someone tells him or he reads it. When the fisherman gets to Jones Beach, Moriches, Fire Island, Wildwood, Montauk, etc., with his favorite tackle, he can begin to look and experiment. He may very well start reading the "SurfSide" column to pick up more advanced detailed information, discussions on the beach with regulars will also help, and he may eventually join a club. You can't become a scratch golfer overnight and neither can you become a crackerjack surf fisherman quickly. At The Fisherman we don't withhold information, I assure you. We try to provide the information in a variety of ways: basic, advanced, and sophisticated. Each department of the magazine affords us the opportunity to give our readers different types of information. You don't see fishing reports in the columns, for example. In our special winter issues, we run articles that discuss what types of rods and reels to use and even how to build and repair them. Thus, I wouldn't want to tell a reader to use such and such a rod and only such and such a reel. The exact equipment depends upon much more than location. The body structure and strength of the caster, special health problems, season, wind conditions, size of lure to be used, bottom structure, species sought, etc., etc., etc. I have seen sticks to six to fifteen feet used off the West End jetty with great success and so who am I to presume that only one will do. However, if a reader asks what rod and reel to use fishing bunker chunks from that rock pile, I might suggest that the rod be at least eleven feet; that a large conventional reel might afford better control, and that heavy monofilament or braided line should be used. I would also suggest that the fisherman get fresh bunker if he could find it, sharpen his hooks, and be very, very careful. Those would be suggestions—not orders. I know one fella who pulls big fish from the tip of that jetty like clockwork and

he uses a nine foot rod and a rather small reel. He succeeds because that tackle fits his style and he has mastered both the place and his tackle. I don't mean to be critical of you, John, but I do hope that I have made my point. Writing a column like this isn't always easy since I frequently find myself torn between offering simple or complex information. Never is the problem more acute than when I am discussing an ecological problem. As Rich Reina, the owner of the publication, frequently points out to me, I have to be very careful not to either talk down to, or talk over the readers. He says that after twenty-five years of training, it is too easy for me to assume something is simple and also too easy to overstate its meaning. I try my best to provide something of interest to all of the regular readers of this column, but maybe you'll come up with a better formula that will allow you to please more of the people more of the time. In that situation, I'll turn my pen over to you. Anyway, you sound like a guy who has some special and specific information to share with us about Long Island surf fishing locations. If so, why not write an article and send it to me c/o The Long Island Fisherman, for the "SurfSide" column.

FEDERAL STRIPED BASS LEGISLATION? Senator John Chafee, a Republican from the State of Rhode Island, has introduced an amendment to the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act of 1965 which would set aside a specific amount of money to study striped bass. Incidentally, anadromous fish are those that feed in saltwater, but spawn in fresh water. Anadromous fish are, in many ways, uniquely threatened in today's world. If the home rivers become polluted, they may not be able to spawn successfully; and if they spawn, the young of the year which are very vulnerable to all sort of environmental stresses, may not succeed. Already, other Senators have expressed support for the Chafee amendment. These include: Baker (R), Randolph (D), Stafford (R), and Culver (D). Not all of these Senators are from coastal states where stripers are caught. This support represents enlightened action on the part of these Senators. We need more research on striped bass so that we will have the data to evaluate problems as they occur. Right now, there is little data of the type that would allow us to decide issues, such as the following: should commercial fishing for bass be restricted? What is causing the decline of the Chesapeake stocks? What is the best size minimum for bass? Will hatchery-reared bass be useful in evening out natural ups and downs in the bass cycle? I urge you to support this legislation and suggest that your Senators and your Congressmen support it actively.

ONE MORE TIDBIT! Remember the bluefish hearings when commercials tried to tell us that large-scale fishing for bluefish wasn't practical and, therefore, we didn't need a management plan? Well, you might be interested to know that our shipments of blues to Japan has increased tremendously since 1972, according to Outdoor Life, July, 1979. In 1972, we exported sixty tons to Japan, but in 1978 we exported ONE THOUSAND TONS OF BLUEFISH TO JAPAN!!. My friends, do you remember when bluefish sold for pennies a pound during the summer when they were plentiful? Have you checked the fish market lately? Sure, send ONE THOUSAND TONS TO JAPAN, and keep the price up at home!

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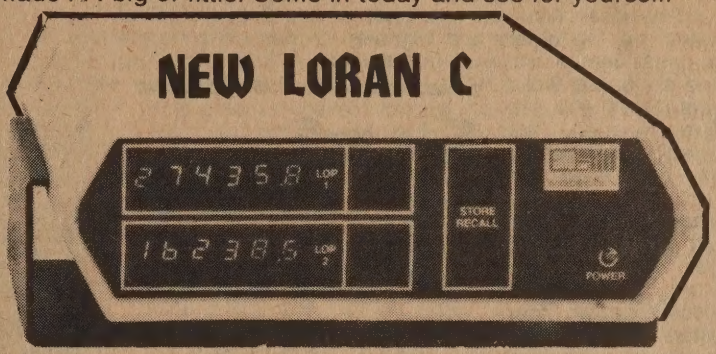

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t was just midnight as I hurled out my ninth eel—hopefully this time past the outer bar.

Numbers one through eight hadn't lasted too long in the churning surf that night—that was the bad news; the good news was that I had reeled in each one of them intact, which at least meant that there were no bluefish around to decimate the eels before the bass could notice them. The eels were tethered, through the lower jaw and out the eye socket, to a leader consisting of a 5/0 bronzed Beak hook on one end, a size 3 black barrel swivel on the other, and eighteen inches of a supple colorless leader material in-between; a fish finder rig and six ounce sinker completed the rig. The leader was intentionally short, as big bass are known to be somewhat lazy, and I did not want the eels to get too far away from, and perhaps discourage, an interested predator. The southeast wind which had come to life earlier in the evening, was now blowing steadily at 15MPH, pushing ever greater quantities of weed my way. With only three eels left and low tide approaching all too rapidly, I concluded that I had, at best, another hour or so before I'd have to call it quits.

Surf Side

with

Nick Balamaci

NEW YORK'S FINEST

I was alone on the beach except for one other person, a fellow bass fisherman by the name of Helmut, whom I had had the pleasure of meeting earlier in the evening. I now noticed that he was moving around a bit. I strained my eyes, attempting to discern his silhouette in the inky darkness, when suddenly my hitherto inactive drag sang out a distinct short note. I knew it was not the wave action that had caused it, as the three foot sand spike and eleven-and-a-half foot rod held the twenty pound test line above the waves.

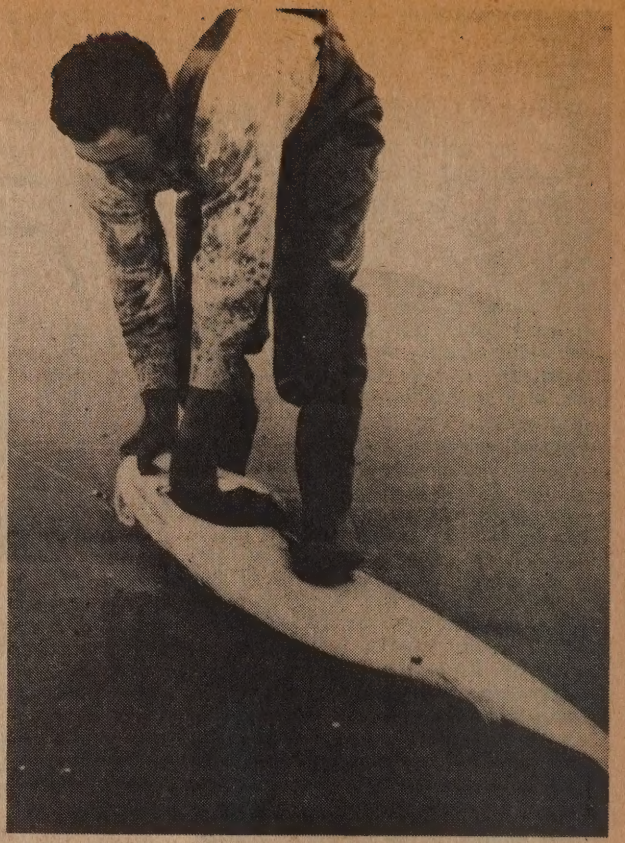
In an instant, I was holding the rod, with a finger lightly on the spool, and my heart pounding like a jackhammer. The spool began to turn again—a steady, leisurely pull, as the fish presumably swam away with the bait—then it stopped. Tightening the drag **slightly** from no pressure at all to a loose fighting position. I counted to ten, then another five just to make sure that the fish had time enough to turn the eel around and begin to swallow it head-first. It was the "moment of truth," and I almost hesitated a bit more because the consequence of a premature yank on my part would be pretty bad—an "almost caught" fish. Fighting off my own indecision, I reared back to set the hook.

Nothing. A slack line!

I optimistically decided that the fish may have backtracked somewhat; and so with every sense tuned in to what was happening on the other end of the line, I cautiously reeled in a bit of slack. Finally, after a few seconds which had seemed more like minutes to me, I felt some resistance and set the hook, hopefully into something other than saltwater.

The fish took off like a shot. Judging from the arch in the stiff Lamiglas eleven foot rod, and from the ease with which the fish removed line from the large Penn 706 surf reel, I estimated the fish to be at least twenty-five pounds. I had not previously felt anything like the raw power and determination of this particular fish.

The first three runs almost had me convinced that I might lose that battle. Even with my fingers on the spool to compensate for the drag setting, the first run saw the fish head straight offshore at a steady pace, as if it was not really alarmed yet. Next came a powerful short run to the west, after which I was able to pump it into shallower water. Apparently now sensing a real and present danger, the fish's next run was the kind surf fishermen seem to like the most: straight up the beach (an area free of obstructions), moving with the current,



at a speed which changed the sound of the drag from a low hum to a screaming high pitched whine. I began to worry about my home-tied knots and snell, and about whether or not I'd cut back the standard ten feet on my line before rigging up, with so much pressure now being brought to bear on the line that a slight flaw could mean I'd never get to see this fish.

Helmut had joined me by this time, and offered to help me land the fish. I consented, not realizing that he lacked a gaff! "Just grab 'em by the gill cover" was his casual reply to my frantic query.

I worked the fish into the breakers and then timing the waves, onto the beach on a breaking wave. Unfortunately, Helmut was about twenty-five feet away from it—too far to land it, but close enough to shine his light on it. I felt my knees almost give under me; it was a bass, and it looked big! Before he could get to it, the undertow took the fish back into the foaming surf, at which point it made its most determined run of the fight—straight at the jetty (roughly 250' west of me), acting like a freight train. I carefully fingered the spool, to turn the fish. It worked, and the fish followed an arc away from the jetty. I began pumping and reeling, never allowing any slack, and five minutes later Helmut dragged a bass out of the breakers that measure four feet long and, eight hours later, weighed in at forty-five pounds.

This event occurred recently, in October of 1978. It was the fourth bass I'd caught that year; a year I considered to have been a real success (the others were thirty-four and fourteen pounds, plus a short). Why was it such a triumph for me? Certainly not the quantity of bass. And while the size of the bass left nothing to be desired, it does not explain fully why just four bass made so good a year.

The answer: it was my first year of serious bass fishing.

First, I put in my time. I made thirty-eight trips to the surf this year to earn those four fish. That actually translates into thirty-four completely fishless expeditions. But even the unproductive trips yielded information.

Second, I am thoroughly dedicated to my sport of

surf fishing. I've never had a dilettante attitude of "fishing is fun, once in awhile," even in the four years before 1978 during which I chased flounder, blackfish, snappers, fluke, and other "non-glamor" species. I am serious about surf fishing.

Finally, I have a voracious appetite for knowledge in the area of surf fishing and am not above eating a little bit of "humble pie" and questioning the pros about how to catch bass. These veterans of the surf are not usually the antagonistic secretive hermits that many of my peers think; I have found most of them to have the greatest love of the surf and the bass, plus a definite willingness to share their hard-earned knowledge with a novice whom they perceive as being as dedicated as they are.

This is evident whether you meet them on the beach, or on the pages of such publications as The Long Island Fisherman. Some have even written books.

There is a moral to this story, and an important point to be made: given the dedication mentioned above, almost anyone can become a successful surf fisherman if they put in their time, and obtain a source of information on the subject and learn from that source.

Of course, a source of information is not absolutely necessary; one does learn through trial-and-error, just as a result of putting in time. I have an enormous amount of respect for anyone who has learned exclusively by himself; it is a long and hard road, one which even today's professionals advocate against as a means of becoming successful. More often than not, they suggest gaining the friendship of a knowledgeable veteran and thus learning the sport—much as they did in their youth.

So, there is a workable and reasonably productive formula here: determination or dedication, putting in time in the surf and acquiring information. Putting this into practice, I doubt that there is a way to predictably create that level of dedication. At a given time, it's either there or it's not. If it's there, you **will** put in your time, and then it is only a matter of finding a source of information.

There are a number of paths to take at this point: hook up with a regular and learn from him; join a club; become friendly with the proprietor of a local tackle shop and thus get information; attend fishing clinics; or simply follow the written word. Not having had access to the first few alternatives for various reasons, I chose the written word. Last fall, having seen my first striped bass ever, I decided that I wanted to catch bass. I knew that it would not be easy, and was prepared to go my first year without a single fish.

I spent the winter gathering up every bit of information I could on how to catch bass from the surf. I got together a few years' worth of LIF's and made an index of features on surf fishing, plus I bought a few books on the subject. I read, re-read, and then read again these books and articles. I saved my pennies and every few weeks purchased a bit more of the tackle I found out that I'd need. But mostly, I learned by reading.

That reading was mainly responsible for the results of my first year at it. As I said earlier, it was a huge success for me. And in my case (and I suspect it is true with many others), this would not have been possible without publications such as The Long Island Fisherman, through which New York's many pros communicate a lifetime of facts about their sport. Taking as an example the story told earlier about the forty-five pound bass, let me illustrate how important a role their information played in the catching of that bass:

Vito Orlando—what tackle to purchase, and how to care for it; the best winds for fishing the South Shore; not to stop fishing because of a bit of seaweed in the water; to cut back ten feet of line after every outing; drag settings and fighting a fish on spinning gear.

Matt Ahern—how to snell hooks and tie knots strong enough to hold any outsized fish; the importance of keeping a log, and what data to enter in it.

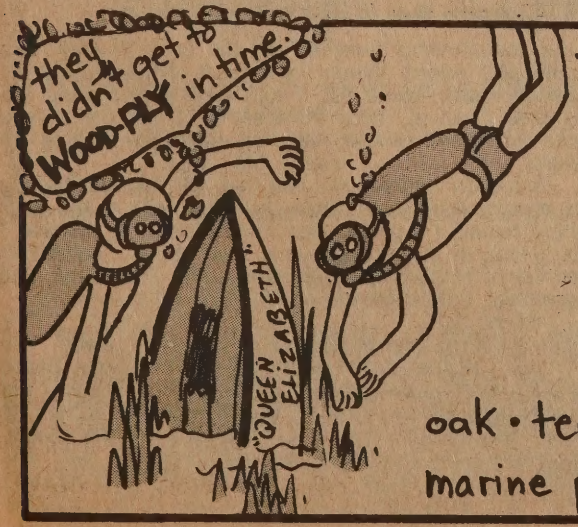
John Fritz—the various types of surf rigs (fish-finder, surf, and pompano) their appropriate uses; the use of long sand spikes to detect bites and hold bottom in a rough surf; a variety of hotspots for fishing live eels; keeping warm in the spring and fall.

David Curti—how to properly present a variety of baits and lures; good rod, reel, and line combinations.

Fred Schwab—the basics of structures and rips: why they hold bass, and how to fish them; dressing to keep dry in the surf; how tides, current, winds, and phase of moon affect fishing.

Doc Muller—the migration patterns and feeding habits of, and scientific facts about striped bass; how to fish live eels on the South Shore; how to "read" the waves for a productive location; to get the eel out past the outer bar if possible; that a bass will probably tail-slap an eel first, then swim off to deeper water to swallow it; about that extra few second count before striking the fish; not to panic about getting my reel stripped of line; timing the waves to beach the fish. As an interesting note, it was an article by Doc Muller that led **directly** to the taking of this particular bass. As I recall, it was a 1975 issue of LIF wherein Dr. Muller related the story of a local surf fishermen fishing live eels east of the jetty at West End II and landing a thirty-six pound bass. I had referred to that article just before I left home, and as a result, decided to fish the same location in the same way. The resemblance between the two stories is uncanny.

The list goes on and on; these are just a few of the literally thousands of bits of information I have learned from "New York's Finest." Read or listen to what those in the know have to say, and use it; and given that dedication and time spent in the surf, you **will** catch your share of fish.



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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

FALL FLOUNDER

o question about it—fall flounder lack the popularity of their springtime brethren. I doubt, though, if this is caused by fishermen who believe fewer flounder are available, or that these fish are smaller than those caught in spring. I'm sure many flounder fishermen feel that at this time of year there are so many other varieties of fish competing for their attention, they can afford to be choosy. There's something to that, I guess. In late winter and early spring, what does the fisherman actually have going for him? Not much, you might say, except for a few ling, a blackfish or two, and for those fishing the New York Bight, the possibility of a cod. But the chances of capturing old bucket-mouth at that time are always iffy at best. Therefore, it isn't surprising that the always welcome spring flounder bears the brunt of the assault. But to occupy the fisherman right now are sea bass and porgies offshore; a good chance at cod at Montauk—perhaps even a shot at a lingering doormat fluke. Surely, blues are still more than willing to give it a go. And when is there ever a better opportunity available for those fishermen who seek large tide-running weakfish than late September and early October? As for blackfishing, it improves with each passing day. And don't forget: weather-wise, the fishing is still comfortable. With all this diversion, is it any wonder fall flounder receive less attention?

It's a shame, too, for right now, due to the still warmish water temperatures, fall flounder are at their sassiest. This isn't meant to demean the scrappy qualities of those springtime flatties; but actually it isn't until late April and into May before spring flounder approach the spunk possessed by early-run fall flounder. So, if you want to take advantage of some good, enjoyable flounder fishing, next month is the time to do it.

I'll be honest with you. I don't know any special places for you to try for these early fall flounder. But you'll find most creeks and canals produce if they contain at least fifteen feet of water at low tide. This is because flounder are a cool water fish and you will find few on those shallow mud flats where you caught them last spring as they basked in sun-warming temperatures. If you intend fishing shallow-water bays, then my advice is to fish the deepest spots in these places. To aid you in this, you will find a chart of your planned area a decided help.

Let me give you an example of what I mean.

Many years ago when I first began flounder fishing, I started, as most of us do, with spring flounder. I never went flounder fishing before mid-April, and when I did, it was always on the flats on the north side of Reynolds Channel in Island Park, particularly around buoy #9. I always had good fishing there and never thought I might fail with fall flounder in that spot.

But the first trip I made for fall flounder in my then short fishing career was several years later in early October. Naturally, I tried buoy #9, expecting a repeat of the excellent fishing I had been enjoying each spring. I was sadly disappointed. I caught flounder, all right, but they were few and far between. Nothing at all like spring fishing. Of course I blamed the fish, not myself, for I didn't know that to succeed at flounder fishing, a fellow had to know his fish. And the more he knew, the more successful he would become. I quickly discovered that flounder were not pushovers for the baited hook. The result was that I gave up on fall flounder fishing as a waste of time.

And then I met Nick Hauck, one of the best flounder fishermen I know. We spent the first summer

Fishing for fall flounder in quiet creeks and canals...

Is quite likely to produce flounder like this.

of our acquaintance fluke fishing the buoy #9 area, and we did well indeed. When the subject of the coming fall flounder season came up, I told Nick that fishing the Reynolds Channel, buoy #9 area for these fish was a waste of time—as was all fall flounder fishing in general.

Nick didn't agree. He said that fall flounder fishing was always good in the area, but the fault of the poor fishing results I'd gotten was mine alone. He insisted I was fishing in the wrong place. You couldn't catch fish that weren't there, he reminded me. But come late September, he'd show me where those flounder were.

And he did.

We fished Schaeffer's Creek which leads into Reynolds Channel to the east and north of Long Beach Hospital, and we caught as many flounder there as I did on the flats in springtime. We fished the fifteen to twenty foot depths that first time, and as the season progressed, we gradually worked to thirty feet and caught more and larger fish. I still fish there on occasion in fall (and **early** spring) with Nick and Artie Leidecker

and, most times, we do pretty good.

So much for finding fall flounder.

What about tackle? It's no different than that used in springtime. If you can fish your area with a two ounce bank sinker, then by all means, light spinning stuff is for you. Any weight over that, say three ounces, I believe warrants medium-weight gear. And anything beyond that means only that you are fishing an area not conducive to good flounder fishing—be it fall or spring time. You'll find your best flounder fishing is always where tidal action is slow-moving. Fast currents mean poor flounder fishing. Always!

As for hooks, there is no problem. Just use two #9 Chestertown hooks tied tandem-style as explained in last week's column, and you are in business. Incidentally, let me say this: there is a better flounder hook on the market than the #9 Chestertown. At least, I believe this and have been faithfully using them for over forty years. This hook is the #6, regular-shanked Sproat. It is a small hook and doesn't look as if it would do you much good—but don't let appearances deceive you. They are excellent for the small-mouthed flounder and I've found they outfish all others.

The problem is to locate these hooks. Some tackle shops do stock them and they often go under the name of "trout hooks." I know if you can't find them now, there probably isn't much you can do about it. But when you get a minute, send off for a free catalog from Midland Tackle Company, 66 Route 17, Sloatsburg, New York 10974. They recently had these hooks listed in lots of 100 loose hooks to the box. This means you'll have to snell them yourself, or tie them with an improved clinch knot using twenty pound test leader material, which is also available from Midland. It's worth the stamp and the time. I know one thing: you'll catch more flounder with these hooks and they are worth any effort you go to to get them. I wouldn't be without them. Keep it in mind for next spring.

Now, what about bait?

In the beginning of the season, you can rely on sand and/or bloodworm. When the water definitely cools, say sometime in November, you'll find the neck of soft clams (steamers) do better. (If you can fish into December, try **fresh** skimmer.) But for now, put your trust in worms.

And don't hesitate to use good-sized pieces of bait. Never concern yourself over the flounder's small mouth. It can easily accommodate an inch-and-a-half piece of worm. Few large flounder will show interest in small baits. It is important to let a small bit of worm trail in the current. You can best accomplish this by allowing the hook to come through the bait a quarter-inch from the end. The important thing is to give your bait a natural appearance. Bunched bait that follows the curve of the hook produces few flounder.

The same applies to clam baits. Slice it thinly and allow some of the soft stomach to remain. This is what all bottom feeders relish—particularly flounder. When using soft clam necks, there are no stomachs for you to use; but if you slice the neck lengthways in two or more pieces, depending upon size, there will be one end that is soft. Make sure this is at the business end of the hook, and bring your hook out that necessary quarter-inch so that it wiggles enticingly in the current.

Fellows ask me if it is necessary to chum flounder in the fall. To that I reply: it can't hurt—but only when the water has cooled sufficiently to rid the area of small bait stealers such as infant sea robins, blowfish, sea bass, porgies, etc. To chum before the third week of October is a fast way to put yourself into the madhouse or poorhouse—whichever comes first.

For chum, you can use the old reliable bank mussel, crushed clam, canned corn (I'm not too hot about the latter—still not convinced that it is harmless); even handfuls of sand if the current is slow-moving. Pebbles will work too, but those concluding two are best used as a last resort.

Fall flounder will be on tap shortly. Are you going to get in on the action? I hope so—thousands of your fellow fishermen do.

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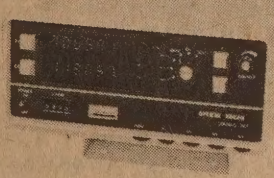

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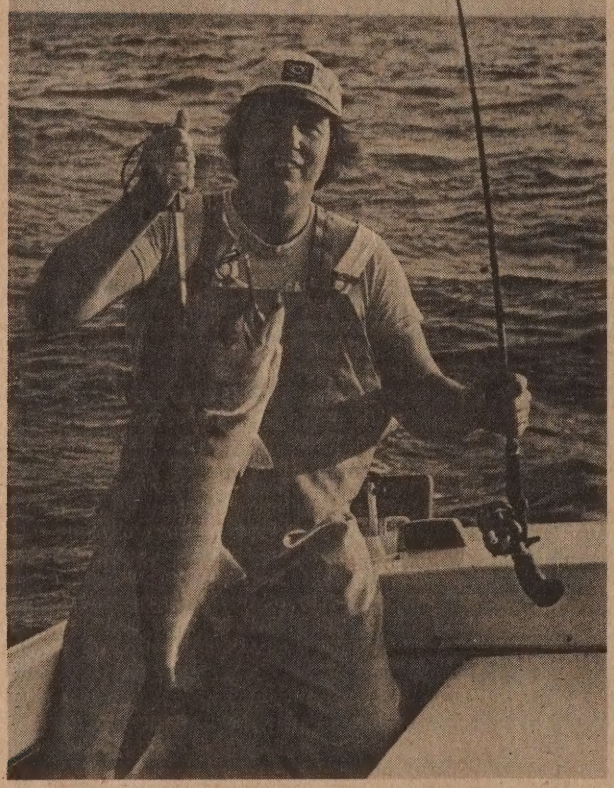
LONG ISLAND GATOR BOWL

by Jeff Whitaker



The sun's fading light cast long, dark shadows across the placid mirror-like waters, broken only by the wake of our boat and a few restless menhaden. Looking straight northward, the harbor slowly widened, its rock-strewn shores lined by steep bluffs and tall green, hardwood trees. Long Island Sound was visible in the distance, far to the north where the bluffs parted. To the south of us, the harbor narrowed sharply for a few hundred yards, until the tree-covered bluffs were only separated by a small tidal stream and a salt marsh. As we cut the motor and began drifting among the surface splashing bunkers, the surroundings seemed peaceful enough. But here, nestled among the hills in this picturesque North Shore harbor, a massacre was about to begin, and we were prepared.

Soon, the tempo of the splashing bunkers began to increase steadily, until the school became tightly packed, their presence marked by a patch of white water in the otherwise serene harbor. We cast our weighted trebles into the frothy mass, and with one sweep of the rod tip, a fresh live bunker was secured. Before we could even transfer the bait to a live bunker rig, the first blue charged the school. Every bunker within a two hundred foot radius left the water simultaneously, and the ensuing shower of fish created a "whooosh" that was audible a half mile away. In a split second, the first attack was over and the bunkers returned to their nervous splashing. A blue suddenly grabbed one of our live bunkers on the dead run, heaving its fifteen pound body out of the water as soon as it felt the sting of the hook. The bedlam that broke loose aboard our boat was then drowned out by the second thunderous eruption of bunker, and then the third. A half hour later, both the blues and bunker abruptly departed, leaving only a blood-stained slick on the moonlit harbor.

If this scene sounds familiar, you, too, have probably witnessed huge blues on their annual North Shore rampage. After cruising the depths of mid-Sound all summer long, these large choppers (I have never seen one taken under eight pounds) suddenly throw all caution aside and invade the shallow harbors to gorge themselves in preparation for the trek southward. Although they may be found chomping bunker anywhere, during the peak of the run, these "teen-size" choppers probe deep into the southernmost ends of the harbors. In extreme cases, the blues—during the height of their frenzy—force the bunkers into water so shallow their bellies rub the bottom. Mattituck Inlet was the scene of an unbelievable carnage in 1973, when a large school of blues pushed the bunker so deep into the tiny creek that when the tide receded, all the oxygen was used up by the fish. Sanitation workers armed with pitchforks came to remove the rotting mass of fish, some of which exceeded twenty pounds. This slaughter took place at a time when there were excellent fall runs of alligators in all the North Shore harbors from Flushing to Orient. Since then, probably due to declining bunker populations, the runs have been of less magnitude and shorter in length. But the size of the alligators is still there, and for sheer adrenalin pumping action, this kind of fishing can't be beat.

Just when the blues will feel the urge to abandon their summertime haunts, in search of those delicious menhaden, is hard to predict. Throughout the summer, the choppers will be sporadically caught chomping on squid, spearing, sand eels or whatever else happens by their deep-water lairs. Then suddenly, they will appear inside the harbors under the bunkers during dawn or dusk periods. Back in the early Seventies, this occurred around late August or early September and the run continued until mid-October. Recently, the alligators have been arriving much later, usually around the last week of September or the beginning of October. Generally, you can expect them after the first strong northeaster, or when the water temperature falls to the low sixties. They will usually stick around until the water cools to about 53°, at which time both the blues and bunker depart for warmer climes. Traditionally, the bulk of the fish converge on Cold Spring Harbor and the Huntington-Northport harbor complex. It is here where the blues will be seen doing their macabre work most consistently; but the western harbors, especially Hempstead and Manhasset almost always have good showings of marauding blues. To the east, harbors such as Port Jefferson, Mt. Sinai, Stony Brook, Nissequogue and Mattituck see only infrequent action now, although Port Jeff was an excellent producer in the early Seventies.

Being in the right place at the right time, obviously, is the key to success on any fishing trip, especially so when the quarry is North Shore alligators. They will usually only feed twice a day (dawn and dusk) and even then for just a half hour on the average. Tides, wind and other factors don't seem to affect this pattern. Of course, there are exceptions such as the real blitzes that seem to occur once or twice a year, when the blues go berserk and continue mangling bunker into the daylight hours. Overcast days, especially weekdays, will sometimes have showings, as will clear moonlit nights. Generally, the thirty minutes immediately after the sun appears and before it sets produce best. But believe me,

those thirty minutes are action packed.

The first course of action upon reaching the harbor is to find the bunker and stay with them, since if the blues are going to show, that is where they will be. The main body of bunker tend to hang out in the same general area of the harbor day after day; so ask around if you're unfamiliar with the territory. Usually, though, they are herded into the southernmost tip of the harbor during the fall months and remain there, even unmolested. Quite conveniently, the launching ramps are also located in the southern ends of the harbors; so it's not a long, gas-guzzling haul to the fishing grounds. Once a school is found, standard procedure is to cut the motor up-wind and drift through while casting weighted snagging hooks. The Iceberg theorem applies here: although it appears to be on the surface, ninety per cent of the school of five to ten feet below. Therefore, it pays to let the treble sink for a few seconds before you begin your retrieve, with intermittent, forceful sweeps of the rod tip. Mortally wounded bunker hooked in the head or gut cavity will perish quickly; they can be used later for chunk bait. To keep a fresh supply of live bunker handy, I use a plastic garbage pail covered with holes about an inch in diameter and an inner tube flotation. This can be hung over the side, bunkers, etc., within each reach while you are fishing. While under way, the whole contraption can be set inside a slightly larger garbage pail (minus the holes) filled with water. I find this setup entirely adequate for this kind of fishing, although some live bait fishermen prefer the convience of an onboard live bait well, circulated by a bilge pump and emptied by an overflow standpipe. An onboard tank would cost you from $100-$300 as opposed to $15 for the inner tube job; but that's another article.

As a topic, rigging the bunker could use up a whole article also; but I'll run down a few options briefly here. One method is to attach a small drail ahead of a wire leader and treble hook, cast this into the school, snag a bunker and then fish it live as is. Many times, you will end up using this method unwittingly, since during a feeding frenzy a blue may see your injured bunker on the snagging hook and opt for the easy meal. Although this technique saves time, only about twenty-five per cent of the blues will be hooked, the majority just lopping off the head or tail and leaving a mangled carcass. The most common method is to transfer the bunker to a separate hook, say a 6/0 or 7/0 Sproat or O'Shaughnessy with an eighteen foot wire leader. The hook is strategically placed in the mid-section of the bunker, just behind the gill plate. Again, you will have the same problem with the blues leaving you a dead head or tail. Here the chances are about fifty-fifty for a hook-up. Skill in hooking really doesn't play a part since the blues don't run with the bait and swallow it; they just charge and sever it cleanly. Indeed, often a chopper will chop the bait so agonizingly close to the hook you could swear he had the bunker measured the whole time. By far the best method is to rig the bunker with two hooks tied in tandem. An eight foot wire leader ahead of a second 6/0 hook is crimped to the bend of the first, leaving just enough loop to allow it to slide along the shank. Some prefer to use 4/0 trebles, which may slightly increase the chances for a hook-up, but are almost impossible to retrieve from the gullet of an extremely irate 15 lb. chopper. Since it is wise to keep clear of those savage jaws as much as possible, even when the fish is under the influence of a lead-tipped billy club, I prefer to use single hooks.

As soon as you have gathered an adequate supply of live menhaden, you should begin fishing even if the blues haven't shown yet. Even if they haven't arrived en masse (and believe me, you'll know it when they do), many a stray blue has been picked up before the first attack. If you decide to use the tandem rig, stick the top hook through the back of the bunker just behind the head, and secure the second hook to the tail with a rubber band. The bait should be allowed to swim toward the edge of the school while the reel is in free spool. If a blue is approaching, your bunker will take to the hills going about the speed of light, then you'll feel a sudden yank when the blue hits him. These choppers set their sights on a particular bunker, run it down, take all they can in one bite turn 90° and zero in on another. For this reason, you shouldn't wait for the fish to swallow the bait as you would with a bass—just set the hook hard immediately. If your reflexes aren't quick enough, you may end up with a bunker minus the torso, with just the head and tail left dangling. Incredible as it may seem, this sometimes does happen when the blue is given just a little time to feel for, and spit out, the hook(s).

If and when the alligators do decide to attack, you are in for a spectacle that never fails to raise any angler's blood pressure. Showers of bunker will periodically erupt in unison, churning the water into a white froth. Frequently, the backs of the blues are visible during these attacks, cruising along at full throttle with their mouths open, ready to clamp down on an airborne bunker. Although all the blues appear to be rushing the bunker at once, it is really only pods of them thrusting into the school while the remainder stay outside, picking up stray and injured bunker, while keeping them balled tightly. So, if your bait is reasonably close to the erupting bunker, it has a good chance of being hit. No matter how tempting it may be, never approach the school too closely with the motor on. In addition to ruining the action, if only temporarily, you will incur the vengeful wrath of any other fishermen present. Many of the sharpies use electric outboards to push their boats quietly up to the school; while the rest of us just go up-wind and drift back. Whichever method you use, as long as your bunker is lively enough and in the water, you have an excellent chance to hook up with one of the blue devils. And when you do, be prepared for the long, streaking runs and head shaking leaps that will surely follow.

After the surface action is over, and the bunker have been scattered into disorganized pods—don't give up. It's more than likely those alligators are still around, scouring the bottom for slashed, battle torn bits of bunker left behind in the heat of their frenzy. By now, it's usually night or mid-morning, and most of the other fishermen have left in pursuit of other game fish, leaving you in relative seclusion. Start a drift somewhere close to the scene of the massacre and lower a few bunker chunks to the bottom. If you have any live bunker left, fish them too. To get the bunker down to the bottom where the blues are feeding, hook him closer to the tail and watch him do a nose dive. Also, another extremely productive method can be used to lure the foraging blues to your boat, that is almost totally overlooked in this type of fishing. A steady chum line of ground up bunker mixed with sea water, and laced with very small chunks, can be very effective. An unweighted chunk with a wire-leadered 4/0 hook embedded within, should be free-spooled naturally down the slick. It often happens that as many, or more, slammer blues are boated using a chum line after the initial blitz, than were taken during the blitz.

You'd have to be clairvoyant to predict exactly when the North Shore alligators will follow the oily trail of mossbunker away from the safe, secure open water and into the unfamiliar, dangerous domain of the water skiers, yacht clubs and live bunker fishermen. It all depends on the movement of the bunker, the weather, the water temperature and the blues' own fickle urges. But, if the patterns of recent years persist, they should arrive in full force around the third week in September, and I'll be right there with them. If I sound a bit overly enthusiastic about catching a few bluefish, maybe I am. There are many other areas where you can cash in on the fall run of slammer blues: you can drag wire or heave jigs amid the throngs at Montauk; you can make the long haul out of the South Shore inlets, or you can lower those heavy drails in the turbulent Race, to name a few. They all offer lots of excitement and plenty of rod bending action. But in my mind, one scene pales before all the others; battling those North Shore alligators on a foggy, flat calm morning deep inside Cold Spring Harbor, with the bunkers flying and blood pressure rising...

MEALTIME MUGGERS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

A STINGRAY PROTECTS ITS DINNER FROM AN INTERESTED SHARK BY STABBING IT WITH ITS TAIL BARB. OF LITTLE USE IN LOCOMOTION, THE STINGRAY'S TAIL IS AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSIVE WEAPON AND THE VENOMOUS BARB CAN CAUSE INTENSE PAIN AND EVEN DEATH.

..AND HOW SOME MEALS ESCAPE.

ASSAULTING A GULL WITH A FRESH CAUGHT FISH, A THIEVING FRIGATE BIRD ANNOYS THE GULL INTO DROPPING ITS MEAL.

A HARDWORKING PUFFIN WITH A BEAK-FULL OF FISH FOR ITS YOUNG IS CONFRONTED BY A GULL. THE PUFFIN'S GROCERIES USUALLY END UP IN THE MUGGER'S STOMACH.

NOBODY VOLUNTEERS TO BE A MEAL AND MOST FISH REACT BY JUMPING AND THRASHING, AN INSTINCTIVE REACTION THAT FREES THEM FROM HOOKS AS WELL AS HERON'S BEAKS.

AQUATIC DRAGONFLY NYMPHS LEAVE THE SCENE AT TOP SPEED BY EJECTING WATER FROM THEIR ABDOMENS.

FROGS LEAVE NOTHING TO CHANCE BY MAKING PRODIGIOUS LEAPS INTO DEEP WATER WHERE ON THE BOTTOM THEY STIR UP MUD TO CONCEAL HIDING PLACES!

SLOW MOVING CRAYFISH WOULD BE AN EASY MEAL FOR PICKEREL, BASS, RACCOONS ETC. IF IT WERE NOT FOR ITS FLAT TAIL PLATES. TO ESCAPE, THE MINIATURE FRESHWATER LOBSTER WHIPS ITS TAIL FORWARD UNDER ITS BODY PROPELLING ITSELF BACKWARD TO SAFETY.

Whipping Cartwright Gorillagators with Ugly Stiks

by Scott Simons

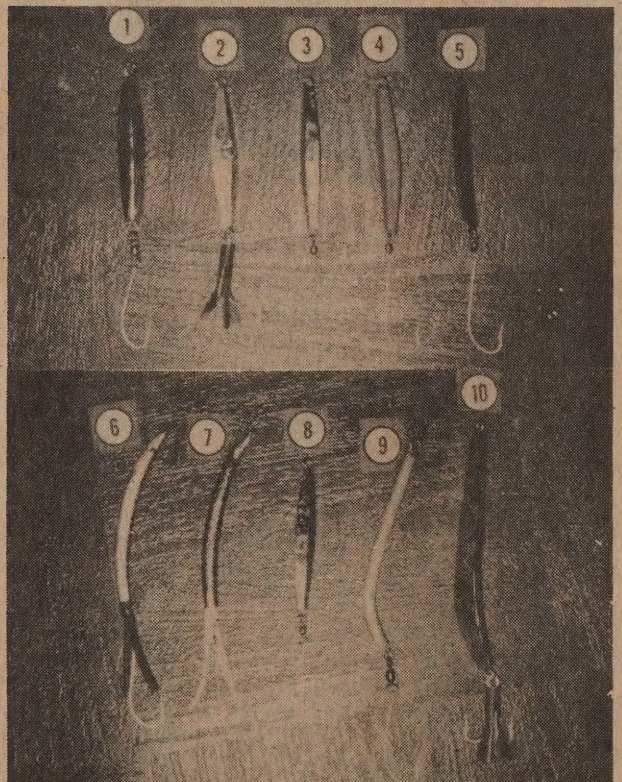
Dick Mermon puts the hurts to a Cartwright Gorillagator with a *Shakespeare Ugly Stik.*

To be perfectly honest with you, I was somewhat leery of the whole trip when Dick Mermon called me around this time last year. Dick said that some of the people from Shakespeare were coming out to Montauk for a few days, and wanted to know if I could arrange for a boat to take them fishing. They wanted to try out some of Shakespeare's new reels and Ugly Stiks to see how they would stand up to the giant bluefish at Cartwright. For tackle, they would be using fifteen pound test on #2441 Shakespeare spinning reels mounted on BWS-1101 Ugly Stiks, and 1984 President II baitcasting reels matched to the BWC-1120-1 Ugly Stiks.

It was the relative lightness of the tackle that they proposed to use that had me worried...I just didn't think they'd be able to land many bluefish on such light tackle. Not that the reels and Ugly Stiks wouldn't hold up mechanically, mind you—what worried me was that they wouldn't be able to set the hook good enough. I had tried light tackling the bluefish at Cartwright before with one-handed spinning outfits and had run into nothing but problems. I have always called the bluefish at Cartwright "gorillagators," out of awe for their size and ferociousness: an eight pound bluefish is only "small" by Cartwright standards; a ten to twelve pound fish is about "average"; fourteen and fifteen pound fish are sprinkled throughout the catch, and humungous bluefish of eighteen and twenty pounds are caught almost daily at the Cartwright Grounds south of Montauk. And those aren't "fishing report" weights, either—I'm talking about legitimate weights, on a certified scale, of bluefish ten to twenty pounds!

The problem I had found with a light spinning rod was my inability to set the hook properly, which accounted for more fish lost than landed. The whippy rod just didn't have enough backbone in it to set the hook deep in the hard mouth of a big blue. Whenever a fish hit the jig, the slow response of the rod and large amount of stretch in the light monofilament line meant that before I could put enough pressure on the hook to sink it, the hook would have slipped along the roof of the fish's mouth, so that when it finally was planted it was usually only in the lip or jaw hinge. This would often lead to "buttonholing" as the bluefish fought, so if he got as much as an inch or two of slack line while I was fighting him, he would be able to "throw" the jig. This throwing of the diamond jig actually reached dangerous proportions on one trip. A few years ago I was fishing at Cartwright with a friend, Frank Michelson, with our one-handed spinners. We weren't landing many fish, true, but we were having a ball. But for some reason at one point during the day the bluefish began to come to the surface almost immediately after being hooked. This added to the excitement, seeing bluefish built more like striped bass jumping out of the water with flared gills—just like in the movies! Problem was that on many of these jumps the blues would violently shake their heads trying to throw the hook, and would often succeed. At first it was funny—until one big gorillagator that Frank had on jumped about ten feet away from the boat, shook his head, and threw the jig right back at him! After seeing an eight ounce Ava diamond jig armed with an 8/0 hook whiz past Frank's

Dick Mermon slips a big fish into the fish box that hit a chrome *Tri-Fin* Sandeel Jig.



Some of the popular jigs that produce fish consistently at Cartwright Grounds: 1. *Ava* 8-ounce diamond jig; 2. *Bridgeport* skirted diamond jig; 3. *Ava* 4-oz. diamond jig; 4 & 5. *S&G* green and black sand eel jigs; 6 & 7. *Tri-Fin* gray and chromed Sand Eel jigs; 8. Unknown, but good. 9. Original *John DeMaio* tube jig; 10. *Bridgeport* 8-oz. Vi-Ke jig with skirt.

ear at about forty miles an hour and land about twenty feet on the opposite side of the boat, we both turned chicken and broke out the thirty pound outfits. The spinners were stored away and never used on Cartwright blues again—until the day that the gang from Shakespeare showed up.

It was one of those beautiful late-September days that we never get enough of, and because it was a weekday, there weren't too many boats fishing Cartwright. Naturally, Captain Brad Glas' open boat "Hel-Cat" (now sailing out of Groton, Connecticut) was there, anchored up, with the usual complement of idiot fishermen who had anchored their small skiffs only a few feet down-current of him. Will they never learn that you don't anchor up with a boat fishing only two or three baits next to a big boat fishing eighty or more? The big boat has enough bait in the water to hold the body of fish right under it, and all the little boat will catch are those stray fish on the fringe of the school. Their best bet is to get away from the big boat and find a school of their own to work. The Cartwright Grounds is a very big area and there are huge schools of bluefish all over the place, so why knock your brains out competing for the fish someone else is working? But I guess they'll never learn.

Being only half an idiot myself, I made a few drifts alongside the Hel-Cat as soon as we arrived. (At least I didn't anchor up on you, Brad.) Naturally, the Big Red Buoy (as the red twin-hulled Hel-Cat is known to those who don't know how to find Cartwright on their own) had the bluefish in the area feeding on herring and they wouldn't look at our jigs. So, more out of embarrassment than anything else, I moved my boat about a mile away so the guys from Shakespeare couldn't see everyone else catching fish while we couldn't touch one. Fortunately, it was one of those rare occasions when Murphy's Law wasn't in effect, and I lucked out by finding a large school of big blues that we had all to ourselves for the rest of the day.

We started bailing bluefish on Ava-67 diamond jigs and the new chrome-plated Tri-Fin Sandeel Jigs that Dick Mermon had gotten from Mickey Chiarenza to try out. Both worked equally well, and it was one of those days when you couldn't get the jig down to the bottom. We were fishing in more than a hundred feet of water and using the normal jigging technique of squidding where you free spool the jig to the bottom, then rapidly retrieve it to the surface. But the school we were working was so thick and the blues in it were so competitive in their feeding frenzy that the jigs would sink only sixty or seventy feet before coming to a full stop because it had been taken by a bluefish.

At first there were five of us fishing: Jack Slater, Bob Phillips and Don Sterdevant from Shakespeare's main office; Dick Mermon, who is the local Shakespeare rep, and myself. Jack and Dick were using the Shakespeare baitcasting outfits; Bob and Don were using the spinners, while I stuck with my regular rod and Penn Jigmaster—I'd learned my lesson the hard way! But they were about to give me a lesson on what a difference a good rod can make.

My arms quickly gave out after winching in four or five, twelve pound gorillagators; so I took over the gaffing duties and tried to keep up with the blood and guts on the deck so I wouldn't have a two-hour clean-up job at the end of the day. But the fish were coming fast and furious, and after awhile I couldn't keep up with the action. Eventually, Dick Mermon offered to "help" me out with the gaffing. (Personally, I think he was all pooped out.) As we gaffed fish after fish and the fish box started to fill, a bell rang in my head—how come they weren't losing any blues fishing with those light outfits? Even though many of the fish were only lip-hooked and had managed to make a nice buttonhole, about the only time a fish was lost was when one of us messed up on the gaffing. (Usually Dick, who might tell it differently if he was writing this article.) How come none of the bluefish were able to throw the hook while they were fighting?

The answer was in the Ugly Stiks they were using, which are actually made with a combination of Fiberglas

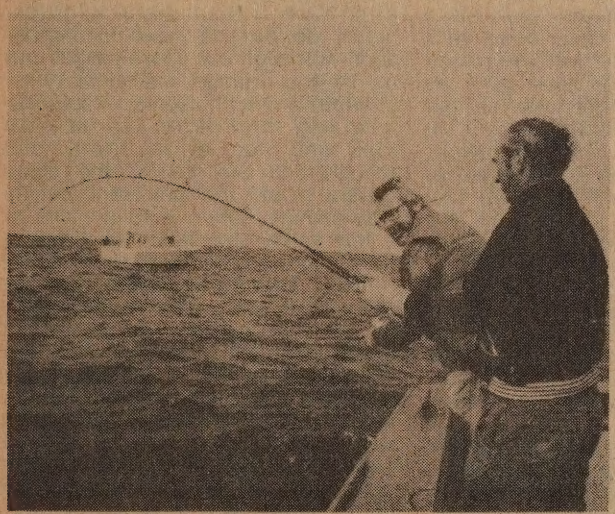
and graphite. The correct combination of the two properties of these materials gave the rods an extremely fast response, which is the quickness that a bent rod will unbend. To explain it simply: take a normal Fiberglas rod and tie a piece of mono to it. Then have someone else hold the rod and put a good bend in it as you hold the line. Now make rapid movements with your hand towards and away from the rod tip like you were fighting a fish. You'll find that by making a quick lunge towards the bent rod you will be able to get a little slack in the line. This is because the "response" of the Fiberglas rod is not quick enough to keep the line taught because you can move your hand faster than it can unbend. It is this slack line that allows a fish to throw a lure whose hook has buttonholed the fish's mouth.

Now try the same experiment with an Ugly Stik. (If you don't own one, see the Shakespeare display at the Long Island Boat Show this winter and ask Dick Mermon for a demo.) You'll find that the response of the Ugly Stik is so fast that it is impossible to get any slack in the line. Therefore, hard as it may be to believe, by using an Ugly Stik you will actually catch more fish! Personally, I never would have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes.

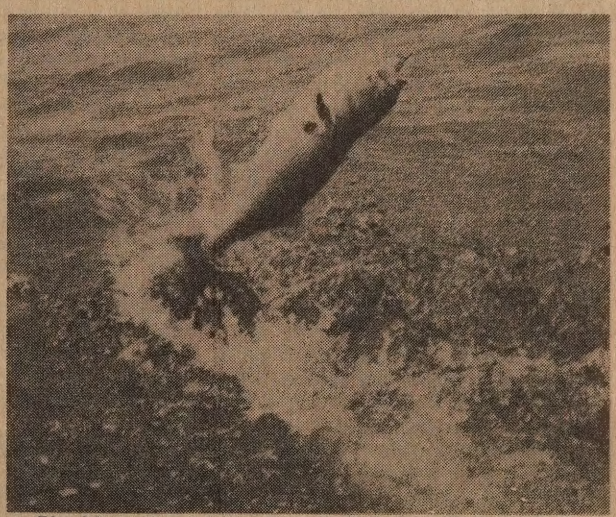
I don't remember precisely how many bluefish we caught that day, but I know it was somewhere in the low forties. After gutting, the fish weighed out at over four hundred pounds, which is a nice average size in anybody's book. And this all on light tackle in less than three hours of fishing! As Editor of The Fisherman, I am naturally in contact daily with tackle manufacturers who all claim to have the bestest, greatest, ultimate-newest product that will increase your catch many times over. But that day at Cartwright last year was one of those rare times that I actually saw a product live up to the manufacturer's claims. As proof of how impressed I was with the Ugly Stiks that day, this year The Fisherman's twenty-two foot Sisu was completely outfitted with Ugly Stiks...and The Fisherman bought every one of them!

One final note on how voracious bluefish can be when they are in a feeding frenzy. At one point early in the day, Dick Slater was reeling in a really big blue. He had it on for about five minutes and almost had it whipped, so I stopped reeling in my jig about twenty feet from the boat and reached for the gaff. While I held the gaff in one hand and my rod in the other, I felt a fish hit the jig and quickly set the hook. Handing Dick Mermon the gaff I started to play the fish, which immediately took my line under the boat. So I put my rod tip in the water and thumbed the spool to apply more pressure and turn the fish. And that's when Dick Mermon yellled at me from the opposite side of the boat to slack off on my line—he'd just gaffed a fifteen pound gorillagator with **TWO** diamond jigs in its mouth! After fighting Dick Slater for over five minutes, this blue was so mean that he hit a second jig—mine.

Now **that's** what I call **mean**!!!



Don Sterdavant and Bob Phillips both play fighting blues on the light tackle. Multiple hookups were the rule throughout the day.



Big blues fought on light tackle are often able to throw the jig when they break water...but this wasn't true when the *Ugly Stiks* were used.

Bob Phillips gaffs a nice blue while Jack Slater's fish does an end run around the stern of the boat.

Don Sterdavant, Bob Phillips and Jack Slater of *Shakespeare* with about half the catch of gorillagators caught at Cartwright that were whipped on light Ugly Stik baitcasting and spinning rods.

SIXTEEN FOOT BLUEFISH

by Andy Regina

For a change, the day broke beautifully. The temporary hot spell was relieved by cooling nothwest winds which had sprung up during the night—not only creating comfortable sleeping conditions, but presaging pleasant weather as well. The past several days had been intolerable: temperatures near the 100° mark, and humidity so high your clothing clung, soaked through with perspiration. The Sound had been covered with a haze that had acted as the cover of a broiler, keeping the muggy heat down on us, and baking us in our own sweaty juices. But, as I said, this day was gorgeous, the cool breeze was refreshing and the sky was clear, the clouds that had promised rain being swept away in long, trailing tendrils that etched pretty patterns against the bright blue. The trip from City Island to Hempstead Harbor even proved chilly, but rather than submit to light jackets, we stayed in shirtsleeves, relishing the goose-bumped coolness that seemed to revive us.

Joe Batista's 16' Georgia-B skimmed quickly past Hart Island, then Sand's Point, Execution Light and Prospect Point, as he steered toward our destination, while I readied our tackle in the cockpit. We were headed for some fantastic porgy fishing that we had been having near Mott's Point, which was on the western edge of the entrance to Hempstead Harbor. Winding down our mutual vacation, we were doubly blessed this particular morning, for not only had the weather smiled on us, but the whole entire trip was actually a bonus, so to speak.

We had made plans to stay at home that day; not only were our wives complaining, but that dreaded Oriental sickness—fundsarelow—had set in, and we both were pretty well strapped. A week of reckless abandonment had wiped out our pocketbooks, and a day on shore would not only prove economical, but would placate frustrated wives as well. As we had gone through our ritual of cleaning the boat the day before, we had chatted with Jack Rumpf, the proprietor of Jack's Bait and Tackle in City Island, and the owner of the marina as well. When he learned that we planned to skip a day's fishing, he offered to provide the bait for the following day, just so we would not be relegated to the humdrum existence of landlubbers for a day.

Jack's a big bear of a man, with a countenance that seems to be perpetually frowning, that scares people from talking to him. Actually, this gruff exterior hides a heart of gold; and though the frustrating task of running the shop and marina, while supplying most of the tackle shops and party boats around with bait, plus operating a sometimes hectic boat livery, can create short-fused tempers at times, deep down he's not only an avid, well-informed fisherman, but a nice guy as well—and I think that most of that gray hair atop his head comes from worrying about his "boys." Anyhow, he saved the day for us then (just as he had so often in the past with vital information, when he gave us the benefit of his knowledge of productive areas or fish-catching techniques.) And we accepted his offer gladly; not only would we be going fishing, but we would not be insulting him by refusing his benevolence. Some guys are like that: they're truly happy making others happy.

These thoughts flashed through my mind as the picturesque shore line of Long Island's North Shore slipped by: high sand cliffs topped by forest of green trees, interspersed with beautiful homes perched high atop the boulder-splashed beaches, like private aeries against the cares of the world. And as one castle-like structure appeared in view, I didn't need the slowing of the motor's growl to tell me we were approaching our destination, and within minutes I was quietly slipping the anchor into the water of Mott's Point.

With porgies, this quiet approach is mandatory, as these shy creatures are alarmed at noise, especially in shallow waters, where sound penetrates to the bottom more easily. Not only do we quietly glide into our approach, and anchor as noiselessly as possible, but we try not to make any boat noises while fishing. The loud clank of an anchor hitting the deck, or heavy objects such as sinkers or tools doing likewise, will very often send any porgies in the vicinity scurrying to quieter places. This innate shyness often necessitates fishing as far away from the boat as possible also; and quite often you will discover that the simple expedient of casting fifteen or twenty feet away will put you into fish that would not otherwise be caught closer to the boat.

And this same shyness often makes getting porgies started a waiting proposition, as it usually takes a few minutes for them to recuperate from your intrusion. We waited fifteen minutes without a bite; then fifteen more minutes, before deciding to move to another spot. Although our shore ranges put us in the immediate vicinity of previous proven hotspots, exact locations vary from day to day, or even from one tide to the next, and though you can be in the same general area, the precise locations may change. When a quiet move of a few yards also failed to produce fish for us, we decided to try drifting, figuring to anchor when we chanced upon a productive spot.

The drift carried us along the beach, and we remarked on those huge boulders that were generously splashed along the entire inshore area, figuring to come back at a later date to fish there for striped bass. That whole section spells bass with a capital B, and though the beach might be a little too dangerous to troll up close, it looked ideal for plugging. And it was loaded with bait: millions of sand eels that drifted past in huge schools. It was this very bait that gave us our first clue of game fish—from their closely-packed, sedate swimming, the sand eels started milling nervously, frothing the surface of the water, and popping loudly, as the millions of tiny bubbles they created burst.

When we saw big fish boil, all thoughts of porgies quickly fled from our minds, and you never saw two dudes get rid of bottom rigs so fast in your life! As the sinkers and worm-baited hooks flew into the bait box, they were replaced with lures; Joe opted for a popping plug and I tied on a diamond jig. Our sense of fishing logic prompted each choice, though our decisions were different. Joe would try to simulate that up-top bait with sight as well as sound, as the plug would reproduce the popping sound the bait was making, and I figured to simulate scared sand

eels with a diamond jig reeled up from the bottom at a furious rate. Both had worked well for us in the past—but such was not the case that morning. Although we saw a lot of fish boils, there were no takers and the bait fish still milled noisily, joined now by terns that started wheeling in circles overhead, like so many feathered Indians attacking a sky-borne wagon train.

And then the sand eels showered upward out of the water, followed by large fish that splashed out of the water as they tore into the schools of bait. That spells bluefish in fishing language, for although striped bass and weakfish also attacked schools of bait fish, they very rarely leaped out of the water in doing so, as these predators were now doing, with loud splashes. Stripers will boil under the surface, and weakfish may just show you a lazy flap of their tails as they, too, boil under the surface; but those crazy bluefish leap clear out in their frenzied pursuit, showing the surface in telltale splashes that would be a dead giveaway, even without the leaping bait and diving birds.

The lures flew past the school like twin missiles, landing just where we wanted 'em—on the far edge of the feeding fish, so that we could work them back through the fish, hopefully tempting some of them into being fooled by the metal and plastic imitations. The results were dramatic and immediate. Joe's second or third pop of the plug saw first a missed attack, and then a solid hit, while my rapidly retrieved jig was stopped dead in its tracks halfway through the school. We both thrilled to the ecstasy of fish on, but only for a few seconds, as both lures were bitten off by the razor-toothed bluefish.

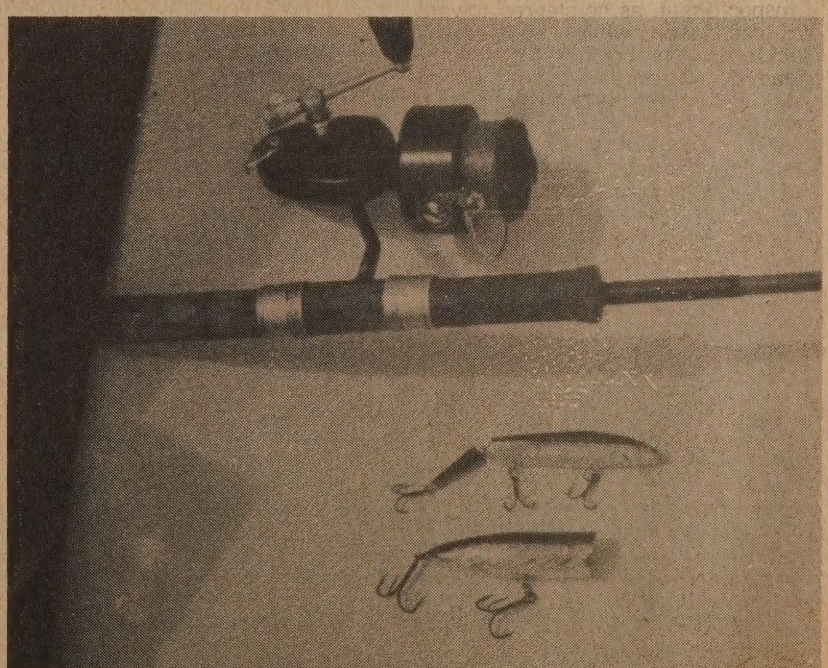
We had tied our lures directly to our lines when we had first spotted those initial fish boils, figuring that no leader was necessary for weakfish or striped bass. Very often this makes good sense since some game fish will ignore any lures tied on wire, but are not shy when monofilament leader or direct ties to monofilament fishing line are used. Our failure to re-rig with wire for bluefish had cost us two lures. Actually, our ignorance could be excused at that time: bluefish fever affects us that way, but you never saw such a mad scramble for wire leader, as we both dug through the side boots, searching for those leaders we had stowed aboard, some place. Our frantic efforts were rewarded, then duplicated, as we once again searched for the lures that were also somewhere aboard—some place!

Lying on my belly between the seats up front, I dug through the forward storage space, coming up with our bag of plugs and banging my head on the steering wheel as I scrambled out from underneath the dashboard. Joe laughed as I rubbed my noggin, tying on a popping plug and casting to the school before I fully recuperated. He loves poppers—and why not? The spectacular surface acrobatics of fish hitting poppers create memories long-remembered; often you can see the fish attack the plug, miss it, and return with a vengeance, bent on inhaling that escaping bait. This vivid picture stays with you a long time, but a school of attacking fish is like an iceberg: while there are a lot of fish slashing bait on the surface, there are a lot more fish down deep, usually feeding on the mutilated scraps drifting down. That's what prompted my choice of a swimming plug, and I grabbed a jointed Rebel and snapped it onto the mono-covered wire leader as I groggily rose up off my knees.

My first cast made me forget the bump on my head, as a bluefish nailed that sand eel-simulating Rebel plug halfway back through the school, and tore off the fragile ten pound test line to the shrill scream of a loosely-set drag. My reel sang harmony to Joe's own protesting drag, for another bluefish had attacked his Rebel popper, and was giving him fits as it cartwheeled away from him, trying to escape the sting of the steel embedded in its jaws. My fish changed its futile underwater tactics too, rising out of the water like a Polaris missile, rattling its gill covers as it shook violently and tailwalked on the surface, before diving deep again and slugging it out down below.

We danced around the cockpit in some clumsy ballet, as we crossed and re-crossed each other, arms extended upward and rod tips bowing to the ferocious fight of those five pound scrappers. From port to starboard, around the bow and under the stern, those fish were pretty much doing as they liked with us. We had set our drags conservatively light, because of the light spinning tackle being used, and the light line necessarily dictated by that light tackle. But the combination of properly set drag and flexing rod tip soon took its deadly toll, and the fish were becoming tired and less rambunctious, though they still sulked stubbornly down deep, and had to be coaxed to the surface with slow pumps of the rod. At boat-side, the fish renewed their struggles at sight of the gaff, but the handwriting was on the wall—clearly that light tackle had won another round, and soon twin bluefish were beating out a final tattoo in the fish box.

We picked another couple of fish out of that school—or rather Joe had—as I lost another fish en route, and I was relegated to becoming Joe's private gaffer for awhile. And then the bait just disappeared, and with them the birds—and naturally, the blues. We chased surfacing bluefish for a couple of more hours, before all action skidded to a complete halt. It was dead-low tide, and the bait had hightailed it elsewhere, taking the bluefish with them to parts unknown, giving both the birds and us a well deserved rest. As we looked at the birds now safely sitting on the water, we rubbed aching wrists and shoulders, smiling that contented smile that only comes to successful fishermen once in awhile, and happy that we had been lucky enough to get those sixteen foot blues! There's nothing quite like catching bluefish from a small boat. Try it—you'll like it!



Components of light tackle bluefish fun: small Rebel plugs, light spinning tackle, and ten pound test Ande line.

Late Summer In Staten Island

by Richard Giessuebel

Tony Iacovelli fights what turns out to be a big bluefish. Friends Rosey and Charley stand by the gaffs.

Fishing along Staten Island this year has been fantastic! And should things continue along at this very same pace, this fall should be absolutely super. Weaks and blues have been crashing the surf daily; and with the return of the larger migratory Hudson River stripers and the cooler water, we'll soon be able to add the third species to this list. Presently, there are small bass in the area; however, if you are to truly catch some bass of bragging proportions, you're going to have to wait for the return of the bigger ones. In this article, we'll look at the beaches that are now very hot and we'll predict what beaches should get very hot this late summer and fall season. We'll also discuss techniques and look at the baits and lures you'll require in order to really do a number on the above-mentioned species.

To begin with, the outgoing tides have been producing the most fish in all of the to-be-mentioned areas. Either day or night, with the night being slightly more preferential, where all you have to do is to get yourself established about high tide and fish the falling tide for about four hours. Remember, with the twenty-five hour tide cycle, everyday, the high tide mark will be about one hour later than the day before. Therefore, if you found the tide conditions super today at 3AM, then tomorrow you should look for those very same conditions to exist about 4AM. What a lot of anglers do is to figure that the fishing was good today at three; therefore, it'll be best to get where they're fishing earlier than that tomorrow. This is a mistake, especially where the tides are the most important factor. For if you've followed this thought, then you'd see that in order for the angler to enjoy the same fishing today, he should plan to get a little more sleep and only show up about three-thirty.

So, fishing the falling tide is the thing to do. Now where should you concentrate your efforts? Well, judging from this summer, your best chances of scoring on this tide will be by fishing the channel leading out of Great Kills Harbor. Preferably, the fishing you will do here will be at night.

As for the summer, weaks have been in this channel every night and on occasion, these fish have gone up to a high of close to twelve pounds. This, my friend, is a rather large weakfish and should you want to tangle with the likes of him, you're going to have to be prepared. Prepared means, you're going to need a flexible pole that's capable of fetching the channel on every cast and playing the hooked fish so that he won't be able to pull the hook out of his very tender mouth.

On nights when the fish aren't hitting baits, your pole's got to be able to cast a plug out to the channel; so make certain that your equipment is up to this task, or forget about it. There are many tackle shops along the island and should you have any doubts as to whether or not your gear is capable or not, stop into one of them and ask. If it isn't, then either outfit yourself properly or stay at home.

The techniques employed at Great Kills at night is to cast either fresh bunker, mackerel, or herring on a wire leadered hook out into the channel. Then, allow your offering to remain on the bottom until a hit is registered. The rig I use is a fish finder rig. I slide a weight up my line, and then I attach the barrel swivel of my wire leader to the line. The barrel swivel itself keeps the weight from coming off, and once cast out into the channel, should a fish bite, the fish'll run off with only the line and the hit will be registered immediately.

The reason why this rig is so effective is that should the fish pick up your bait and run in toward you, on most rigs, only the line would go limp. However, with the fish finder, your pole will actually bend to the pressure of the line being pulled through your sinker, even if the fish's running in.

As for a hook, I prefer a size 3, 4, 5, or 6 tuna hook. These are short-shanked hooks, and they are very easily hidden in the bait. This, of course, isn't as important at night as it is during the day. Also, I use the wire just in case the blues decide to come in rather than the weaks.

As far as the length of the leader, if you're going to

pay close attention to the pole, then you don't need much more than several inches. But, should you want to fish bait on one pole and cast a lure on another, then increase the size of your leader, so that the fish can't swallow the entire offering and bite through your line.

Another problem that you might run into is that the crabs might be getting to your bait; and if this is the case, then here's what to do. Make certain that you put a cork float between your barrel swivel and your tuna hook. By this maneuver, you'll effectively keep your bait high up off the bottom. Should it become obvious that the fish you are catching are only weaks, you can do away with all of the wire leaders.

A final point that should be mentioned here is that you should use a shock leader to help you make those long-required casts, and to minimize the chances of casting off your rig because your light line has become frayed. I know I've said a lot here; so let's take it apart. First of all, I wouldn't recommend that you use line of heavier pound tests than twelve. If you do, you will cut down your casting distances considerably. Therefore, with light line, you can't really put it into your casts. Because, if you do, you will certainly find out that the line can't take it, and you'll be losing a lot of rigs. So, in order to make the long casts, you should add a length of twenty pound test line to the end of your twelve pound test line. This length is called a shock leader. What I recommend here is about a fifteen foot leader. Now, should you change knots or lures during the night, you will still have plenty of line left where you don't have to make a new shock leader.

The knot required to connect the two lines is called a double blood knot. It's made by twisting the two lines together. Then, you pull a loop out of the twisted line and pass both of the free ends through the loop. Now, wet the lines and pull the knot together. Snip both ends of as close to the knot as possible and you're ready to go.

Another way to take fish out along the channel is to fish a swimming plug. The most effective have been the white or yellow Danny plugs. These lures come through the water with an awful lot of action, and t › fish find them very hard to resist. If fishing these plu at night, make certain to use a slow retrieve. During t day, you can speed the retrieve up some. Also, exp t a hit at any time. Often, the weaks will follow th lure right back to your feet. Then, as you're lifting the lure out of the water, they'll scare the death out of you by swiping at it. If one gets hung at this point, let him run off. Fight 'em at a distance! This accomplishes two things. First of all, you'll take the fight out of the fish while he's in the water; and secondly, you'll be better able to remove the hooks from a spent fish than from a green one. Remember, these Danny plugs have a lot of hooks, and if the fish isn't beat, you run the risk of having him impale you upon one of those unspoken-for hooks. This is quite easily accomplished at night, too.

Another hot beach has been South Beach. Blues have been in every morning on an outgoing tide; but this is one beach where the tide doesn't matter too much. For some reason, even though the waters off of South Beach are rather low, the fish hold here well during even the lowest tides.

One thing that I do while fishing South Beach is to fish for fluke. However, I use snapper blues for bait, and if there are blues or weaks in the area, I'll catch them, too.

When fishing for fluke, cast way out, forget about the wire leader, and retrieve the bait to you very slowly. Should a stoppage be felt, stop reeling, give the fluke an opportunity to swallow the bait. Then, gather your line and pull through the stoppage. If it's a fluke, you have a fight at this point. If it's a snag or the bottom, you should pull free. However, if it's a blue or a weak, you won't have to guess, because should he bite, he will hook himself and he'll go off pulling for all he's worth.

Of course, you'll be able to fish bait on the bottom or cast lures. However, when on sandy beaches why not fish for all the most common island species. The lures used here vary only in that metal is used a lot here

(Continued on next page.)

The business end of this blue shows what he fell prey to, a Danny plug.

because there's usually a lot of bunker in the area; also, longer casts are often required here to get out to the fish.

Speaking of long casts and getting out to the fish, another technique used along most of these beaches is to carry two poles: one to fish with and the other to catch bait with. If the bait you're after is snappers, you should carry a light second pole; however, should you want to employ a live bunker, then you've got to carry a nine footer with a three-pronged weighted gig on the end. The gig is cast out into the bunker and hauled back in as fast as possible. A foul hooked bunker is then transferred to your fishing pole, where he is used for bait.

Fishing of this nature is very fast and furious. The fresh bunker are deadly on all of the above-mentioned game fish, including the fluke. Another technique used is to cast metal into the bunker. Then, once a fish is hooked, instead of reeling him in, you simply let him run off bleeding and fighting your metal, and he's certainly going to get picked off by some waiting monster. This technique works very well on all the species mentioned, but particularly well upon the bass. Bass are suckers for crippled bunker; and in fact, most of the best bass lures that are on the market today actually portray crippled bunker.

As for bass fishing, either fish Penny Beach, Cliff Street, or Arbutus Avenue. At the first two mentioned beaches, worms are the order of the day. Again, outgoing tides are preferred. This is because the outgoing tide at these first two beaches is very strong and the bass come in searching for anything that can't swim in it.

As far as lures used off of these first two beaches, the most common is the bucktail. Mix the colors, but stick pretty much to basic white and yellow. Add a tail hook to your bucktail, and use either a piece of pork rind or some squid or mackerel strips as a teaser. Cast out and retrieve in one steady motion. Give the appearance of an easy meal. The bass are here because the currents are treacherous and a slow retrieve gives the indication of a struggling fish.

At Arbutus Avenue, walk out onto the bulkhead. Then, cast out in the direction of southeast. There's an old piling out in this direction and should the bass be here, you'll know about it! This is a high water beach. At low water, it's almost impossible to fish; however, if you're looking for a big bass, then here's where to hunt.

Other locations around the island where fish will be caught are along the piers—especially 8, 12, 13, and 17. Here, the fishing is good around the clock. Daylight hours score the same as at Great Kills.

Midland and New Dorp beaches are good too, and since they're sandy, you can again employ the fish for fluke technique that will take the weaks and blues as a bonus. Striper fishing at these beaches is an early morning affair. Also, you've got to fish the rock piles. The storm sewers are also good holding areas, since they tend to make the water deeper right in front of them and this gives the bass a good place to hide.

If you can get into Fort Wadsworth, then by all means, fish here in the fall. The Fort itself is located right in the Verrazano narrows directly beneath the bridge. Here, the tides are the most treacherous. Therefore, here's where the really big bass come to get an easy meal. Most guys fishing here don chest waders and get out into the river, where the current isn't strong and from a sand bar, they cast big swimming plugs out into the rip where the trophies are waiting. Big blues and stripers are common, and so are crowds. A lot of guys get in on this action, which is usually break of dawn fishing. If fishing at night here, some guys employ the aid of an eel skin off the back of their swimming plugs; however, very few if any guys actually fish eels. This seems weird in a river that's crawling with eels, but it seems that if the fish can choose between bunker and eels, it would be much safer to be an eel.

Well, there you have it. Staten Island is alive with fish and this late summer and early fall season should be a blast. Don't miss out on it!

A Santo's regular, Sal displays five weakfish he caught on plugs and bucktails.

Tony Iacovelli and Tony Jr. display a nice weakfish caught off Staten Island.

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Seven-year-old Richard Rade caught this 6½ lb. giant sea bass aboard his Dad's "Marlin IV." The young angler had a half bushel of big porgies to boot.

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Capt. Freddy Bird of the open boat **Flying Cloud** reported that the porgy fishing has been fantastic for fish of all sizes. Fishing has been hot around the Lighthouse and even the weekend's winds didn't hurt the fishing. On Thursday John Murgeson of Highlands Falls, NY was high hook with 151 porgies. On Saturday the high hook was 96 porgies. Freddy said the porgies range in size from small to the "oven-stuffer roaster" jumbos. Capt. Dusty on the open boat **Little Bear** is also having fantastic porgy fishing.

Capt. Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** reported that during the middle of the week it was a virtual porgy blitz at the Lighthouse with catches going in the hundreds for some. Because of the weekend weather the boat sailed west to Gardiner's Island. Although Sunday's action was very good, it did not compare to Saturday's super fishing when 6 anglers aboard had over 100 porgies and catches of 40 to 60 fish were easily scored by others. Willie Cornell of the Bronx, had 232 porgies for Saturday and Sunday's effort. Bud said that no matter where you fished the porgies are of mixed sizes, throwbacks to jumbos.

Capt. Mike on the charter boat **Montauk** reported that the bluefishing at Cartwright was phenominally excellent, the best action he has ever seen since the days that he used to mate for the late Capt. Dick Vigilant. The fish average about 14 lbs. and go up as high as 19 lbs., real animals. Mike said that they had been taking upwards of 100 of these giant bluefish a trip and he expects the action to last well into November because the water is still quite warm. The **Montauk** specializes in diamond jigging and bait

A recent Nantucket wreck trip produced this 65 lb. cod for Joe Peragine; a 62 lber. for Berto Barclira and a 36 lb. pollack for George Havemeyer. Fishing was done aboard the "Viking Starship."

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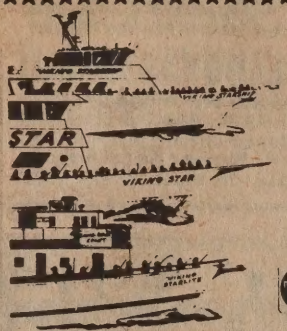

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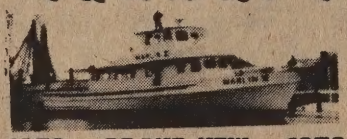

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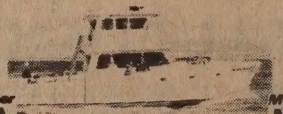

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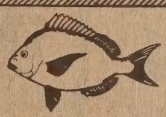
PORGIES!  PORGIES!

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Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the charter boat **Julie III** reported that last Saturday morning a party lead by Ted Gollatz caught 720 lbs. of bluefish that range from 8 to 15½ lbs. on Cartwright and on the south side. On Sunday a party of 5 from the New York City Transit Authority, lead by Freddy Johnson, caught 1340 pounds of bluefish south of Block Island diamond jigging while at anchor. Capt. Ron said that the school of bluefish was a half a mile long and 20' thick.

Capt. Warren Hader of the charter boat **Devilfish** said that most of the charter boats had been trolling the big bluefish at Cartwright, but there's also plenty of smaller fish around the Point. It seems that the school tuna have finally left the area, before the weekend blow there was still reports of some giant tuna being taken off of Block island. A few bass are starting to mix in with the bluefish around the Point, so there's still hope for a good Fall bass run to develop.

Capt. John Demaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** reported that the bluefishing at Cartwright is still excellent, but on some days they only seem to want the herring bait and it can be tough catching them on jigs. On Saturday, John sailed to the Appletree Grounds off Block Island and took 125 bluefish on Ava diamond jigs in only a few hours. He didn't sail Sunday due to the high winds.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** informs us that except for a light catch Sunday due to the weather, the codfish catches remain very good, fishing Coxes Ledge. Lots of 30 and 40 lb. class fish and lots of 8-12 lbers as well. This is all on bait and the codfishing is terrific for this time of year. Paul says the night blues remain fantastic, that the boat has been coming in early with arm-weary passengers. Paul says its been a massacre with all fish in the high teens and the pool fish going at least 20 lbs. every trip. Porgies have remained excellent up to Saturday. Fluke trips have been terminated for the season. There are only two remaining open dates available for the gigantic Nantucket wreck trips for this year, as the September 30 and October 14 trips are entirely sold out.

Captain Richie Rade of the **Marlin IV** reports porgy fishing on the **Marlin IV** has been terrific everyday. Every man gets an average of 40-50 fish a day with also a lot of sea bass mixed in. Some of the experts are bringing hom 90-100 a day. The porgies range from 1½ to 3 lbs. each. The Marlin IV is getting all these beautiful fish in the Montauk area. They are bluefishing every day and night. An average of 350-400 fish taken each trip; the average being 12-15 lbs. The pool fish on Sunday the 16th was 20½ lbs. and

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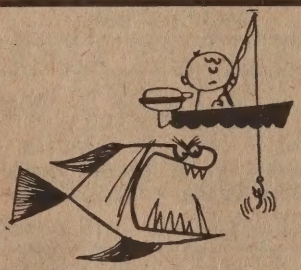

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was caught by John Bell of Atlantic St., Bridgeport, Ct. Mr. Bell also had a bag of 16 other blues.

Captain Ron Grandinetti of charter boat **Julie III** had a charter led by Paul Bereswill, a Newsday photographer and they bailed 550 lbs. of blues from 8-15 lbs. at Cartwright on herring and butterfish Friday. Saturday's charter for Vinnie Holstrum and group from NYCTA had 1000 lbs. of blues in the same area, again on bait. Fish ran from 9-16 lbs. The last few weeks bluefishing has been fantastic to the tune of 700 to 1400 lbs. of blues per day for an all-day charter.

Captain Frank of the charterboat **Free Spirit** says the best bet now is Cartwright blues, which are plentiful and huge. Frank also had a few blue shark during the week, but weather conditions are making these catches unpredictable. Franks says he will be sailing only inshore the remainder of the season and he has some October dates open.

Captain Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** called to say the bass are starting to show their faces bit by bit. Phil had 8 stripers on an afternoon charter of which 6 were taken after the blow. Most trips are 1 or 2 bass. An offshore trip this week saw a Mr. Glorioso take a 188 lb. mako plus 17 blue shark all in the 200-275 lb. class at 40 Fathoms. Phil says prevailing tide conditions are the most important ingredient to successful bass trips.

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SHINNECOCK

The **Captain Clark Fleet** reports blackfish starting to show in good numbers on the wrecks in Peconic Bay. Louis Rossow of Glen Oaks took the boat pool Thursday with a 6 lb. blackfish plus several smaller blacks and a pail full of porgies. Blackfishing should improve greatly as the water cools. Green crabs and fiddlers are available on the boat. At present, porgy fishing is excellent in eastern Peconic and Nassau Point with fares averaging 30-40 fish per man. The **Captain Clark II** expects to make an ocean wreck trip this Saturday for sea bass and blacks.

Speck's Bait & Tackle reported flounders have begun making an appearance and should establish themselves as the best bet for this area. Big snappers still being taken at Nationals and some blackfish at

the Shinnecock Inlet Jetty.

MORICHES BAY

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** tells us Rick and Skip Jones and friend bagged 56 flounder up to 1½ lbs. using bloods at the mouth of Setuck Cove 10 minutes from the dock. Looks like they're off to a good flounder season and Jim hopes to see big catches of larger flounder in the days to come.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz' Fishing Station** says crabbing is still fantastic. Fred Katz and pal had 240 crabs on rings and traps working between buoys 17 and 9. Excellent mixed bags of weaks, porgies, blowfish, and eels plus snappers on the top from buoys 19-17 for porgies and eels and between buoys 17 and 9 for snappers. Blowfish and weaks from buoy 15-9. Some flounder showed up this weekend, best being from buoy 12-9 on the rock pile.

SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **Young's Fishing Station** tells of kings and weaks a good item within a 2 mile radius of the mouth of Brown's River, boats averaging 20 fish on a good day. Squid and snapper sides on the hook while anchored and chumming is the way to go. Heavy catches of porgies on the east line on worm. A few eels around also. There's good crabbing in deep water and 10-12'' snappers abound.

WEST SAYVILLE

Jim at **South Bay Fishing Station** says some weaks being caught off Brown's River and at the east line on squid strips fished on the bottom, fish 2-4 lbs. Lots of snappers around and also blue claws. A few flounder have started to show.

EAST ISLIP

Wally at **Buoy 2 Sport Shop** passed along word that blackfishing has been very good at the Kismit Reef on fiddler crabs and green crabs. He weighed in a 7½ lb. tautog for Al Gunthre on Saturday. Al had several other fish in the 4½ to 5 lb. class as well in his catch. Fish were taken on the reef.

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil of the **Casey Lee** says that though the fluking was good Thursday, he started floundering on Friday. They've been catching some flounder, porgies, sea bass and blowfish when the weather cooperates in the State Channel. Action should increase as the water cools. The boat is now on its fall sailing schedule of Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holiday sailings only. The boat will be sailing October 1 and 8.

Smokey's Bait and Tackle talks about blackfish on the Kismet Reef from 2-6 lbs. on fiddlers. Sea bass and porgies at the WR buoy on squid bait with bunker chunk in a pot. A few flounder have been caught in the cove at Oak Beach on sand worms, fish 1/2 to 3/4 lbs. Weaks 8-12 lbs. are being taken in front of the lighthouse on live snapper on the flood. Several kingfish have been taken under the big Moses Bridge. A 17 lb. fluke was caught this past week in the same place, so there are still a few doormats remaining. Plenty of blue claws and snappers all over. A Canyon trip on the charter boat **Rum n Coke II** for Frank Sterlacci and buddies produced 6 yellowfin tuna to 75 lbs. and five long-fin albacore to 50 lbs., all on Green Machines. Lots of bluefish in 75' of water off Cherry Grove on bait and on jigs, fish up to 12 lbs. Alfred Franchi of Islip had a 14 lb. king mackerel (southern weakfish) on one of the Joseph boats this past week. Carl and two buddies jigged 68 good bluefish on their boat Serena II fishing off Patchogue. Carl says there will be a lecture by Captain Irv Levine concerning Captain's licenses on Thursday, September 27 at 8:30 p.m., at the Surf Side III Lounge at the foot of Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst.

CAPTREE

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph Fleet** reported that the bluefishing was very good all week long at the Outer Banks of Patchogue. Friday and Saturday nights the water was rough but those that stuck to the rails still caught plenty of blues 6 to 14 lbs. On Saturday night Lenny Cermeno of Centereach was high hook with 31 fish, and on Friday night Al Franchi of Babylon made the unusual catch of a 15 lb. king mackerel. Capt. Kennedy said that fluke fishing during the day has been an on and off affair with virtually all the fish being taken in the Inlet west of the bridge.

Captain Walter on the charter boat **Lady Ann** reports bluefishing continues excellent on both day and night trips fishing off Patchogue. Saturday night was the best of the best, an outright slaughter. Daytime fares are also taking tuna, bonito and albies mixed in with the blues mixed in on bait and jigs. At night, it's strictly a bait job.

Captain Gordan Roman of the **Captree Queen II** called to say the day and night blues remains fabulous and it's easy fishing with the blues directly on the bottom. Sinker rigs are accounting for excellent catches for everybody.

The **Jib Fleet** reports blackfishing has been good. Mike Lanzaro of Astoria had a 6 lber. Ferdinand Mainenti of Astoria had a 5 lber. Bob Mitchell of Franklin Square had a 6 lb. 1 oz. and a 5 lb. 1 oz black. Doug Miller of Deer Park bagged an 11 lb. 6 oz. weak on the weekend. This week, particularly Saturday in the rain, blackfishing was fantastic with fiddlers or clam on the hook.

Rod Westerlind of the open boat **Capt. Rod** reported that although he had a couple of decent days with fluke during the week, he has decided to switch over to a mixed bag type fishing next week. Flounder, blackfish and porgies will be the primary targets.

The **Capt. Scotty** reported real fine bluefishing on Saturday. Mixed in with the blues were tuna up to 20 lbs., albacore to 12 lbs., and small bonito. Action has been south of Patchogue in 110' of water. Both jigs and bait take fish running from 10 to 15 lbs. George called Saturday's fishing real tough picking.

Mrs. Litwin of the open boat **Capt. Ben Litwin** told of a very good day Sunday with blackfish at the Kismuit Kismit Reef. Some of the fish taken by fares ran up to 8 lbs. Many nice size fish came over the rail. Green

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SEABIRD
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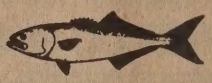

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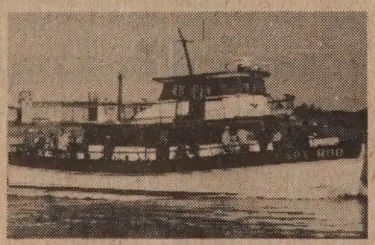

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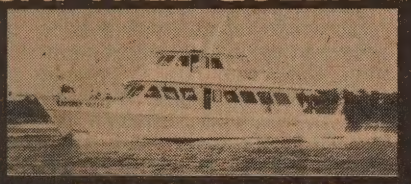

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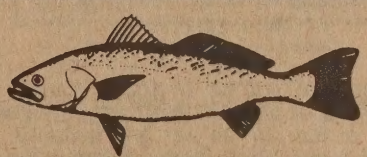

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crabs and fiddler crabs were the bait. One angler who intentionally fished for porgies, ended up with a bucket full of decent size fish.

BABYLON

Augie's Bait and Tackle informs us the flounder are starting. Ski saw 9 flatties brought into the store by one customer, all fish of decent size. They were caught at Bergen Point in the east-west channel on worms. Good blackfishing at the reefs, jetties and bridges on fiddlers and greenies. Lots of porgies nearly anywhere if you use chum, areas such as buoy 12 Ocean Beach and the ferry boat channel. Sea bass in most of the deeper holes. This was as of Saturday. Weaks still being caught at the lighthouse on high tide, live snappers best. Blues being caught in the surf at dusk, best results on eels.

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** tells us that a few flounder were caught on Sunday at Mud Creek on worms and there are still some small weakfish mid-Bay just east of the Captree Bridge on squid strips.

Charlie's Fishing Station tells us on Sunday, east-west channel produced some flounder for several of their rental skiffs. Frank Kerr and sons fished squid strips at the bridge and boated some weakfish for their efforts.

OAK BEACH

Hays at **The Store** reported that the Surf and Sea Anglers held a bluefish contest last weekend. Club members took blues up to 7 lbs. along with a number of bonito from Fire Island to Moriches Inlet. First Place was taken by Hans Hansen who had a 7¼ lb. chopper. Hays looked over a fine catch of tiderunner weaks made by Bob McGuire and Warren Leggiere. The two anglers used live snappers at the Old Lighthouse to take 9 weaks up to 12 lbs. 1 oz. Other anglers scored well in the same area.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★BEST BET★
MIXED BAG

COPIAGUE

Bait and Tackle Unlimited reports flounders are picking up nicely around the Meadowbrook Bridge, Copiague Hole and in the State Channel off Babylon. This is on worms. A few weaks in the inlet on live snapper. Hook and Ladder #1 of

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East Islip out on a charter caught 125 lbs. of blues in less than 2 hours out of Babylon on jigs and bananas. Fish were 10-15 lbers. A few fluke still left in the mouth of the inlet on squid and spearing. Lots of porgies at West Island and Copiague Hole on sand worms. Plenty of blackfish at the Meadowbrook Bridge and at the Kismet Reef on green crab.

SEAFORD

Ted at **Uncle Hermie's Fishing Station** says there are lots of fish in the bay and good mixed bags of flounder, some hold-over fluke, sea bass, eels, weaks and kings are waiting to be caught. Ted saw one fellow come back with 9 flounder in the 1¼ lb. class.

Pop's Fishing Station called to say that despite the high winds and rain, fishing for those who know where to find the fish, have had good catches. Jose Nieves and family caught 28 flounder up to 1¼ lbs. using sand and bloodworms. John Duenges caught fluke up to 3 lbs. off the west side of the 3rd bridge up to Four Corners on killie-squid combos. The Longarello family of Seaford boated 80 porgies and many snappers fishing the east side between the 2rd and 3rd bridge using sand eels and spearing. Mellow Parcelli and John Puchalski had a good bushel of blue claw crabs working the bay. Lots of fish around waiting for you to come and harvest them.

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle reports the snappers seem to be pooping out. Still a few fluke at the inlet. Bob Sauer had 15 flounder up to 1 lb. working Squaw Island Friday with bloodworms. Flounder also at the 3rd Wantagh just starting. Mucho porgies in the bay, particularly Florence Beach and Massapequa Cove. Ziggy D. of Massapequa bagged an 11¾ lb. weak working the black banks using a baby blackfish on the hook. Lon has heard of surf casters taking some stripers and blues off the sand at Long Beach and Gilgo on plugs. Good blackfishing at the bridges and blueclaws still around, particularly in deep water in the fall. A good mixed bag .

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station tells us there are big bluefish in the Bay. A 17 lber. was caught in Haunts Creek on a live bunker. The 3rd Wantagh has produced big bluefish also, as has the area of the black banks. Lots of small flounder being caught and a lot of porgies also, hotspots being Rowboat alley, Merrick Point and Swift Creek. Blackfish at the bridges on fiddlers and also in the bay being caught on flounder rigs. Don Heller took a 42 lb. 8 oz. bass on live bunker in the bay, exact spot unrevealed.

Merrick Tackle in Bellmore has heard reports of a few good sized bass being taken in Jones Inlet along with bluefish on live bunker. Small flounder this past week in the bay's deeper holes along with sand porgies. Worms, clam and chum are the key. Nice size blackfish at the Bridges on clam or crab baits. Frank the Carpenter tells us last Wednesday Rocky Smith, while chumming shark, had an estimated 800 lb. giant bluefin tuna strip a 6/0. This was shortly followed by two big yellowfin tuna stripping his other two big reels.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** reports George Zipper bagged a 17½ lb. blue and two 15 lb. blues in the bay on live bunker Sunday. Tom Ortmueller and crew had blues chumming and jigging in 40' of water, 12 fish up to 13 lbs. A few blueclaw crabs and flounder along with porgies and small sea bass at Reynolds Channels buoy 19.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★

MIXED BAG

FREEPORT

Captain Richie of the **Starstream II** reports superb bluefishing on both day and night trips, mainly working E.S.E. of Jones Inlet. On the day trips, blues are being jigged on the bottom and a baited hook stripped out to fish the top 15' of water has been accounting for additional catches of albies, bonito, tuna and skipjack. Leo and Manny Paradise of Cedarhurst had over 100 blues. Other fares had catches in the 30s and 40s. Gerard Richards of ABC-TV bagged 25 fish average on three trips made this past week. On Wednesday, three yellowfin tuna were baited and landed. Regular Doc Goldstein, a Bayside dentist, had a tuna, a bonito and a load of bluefish. Your reporter sailed aboard the boat Thursday night and can attest to the continued frantic bluefishing. Mates Jeff and Doug were run ragged gaffing blues that ran from 4-12 lbs. Captain Chris Specht did it again.

Mark's Bait and Tackle informs us that Frank Geraci and John Levins fished the high flats drain bridge Thursday night and were rewarded with a 13 lb. blue, a 15¼ lb. blue, plus an 8¾ lb. weak, all on bunker chunks. They were also chumming with chunks. Flounders have started in Baldwin Bay, small but consistent plus loads of porgies, all on worms. Mark, John and Frank boated 160 porgies, sea bass and blackfish Friday night during the last two hours of the flood on bloods, sands, and clam, fishing into the bridge.

The **Captain Bill** reports flounder catches have been decent this past week, made up of half flounders, half porgies. One fare walked off the boat with 70 fish. Saturday and Sunday Bill had bluefish charters and they chummed up decent catches at Cholera, fish 3-7 lbs. During the week, plenty of flounder in the 3/4 to 1½ lbs. class along with porgies were yanked. The boat has been working a small wreck just north of the loop bridge.

The **Captain Al** has been fishing Cholera all week enjoying very good catches of blues, bonito and albies, mostly blues from 3-7 lbs. Albies have been running 8-12 lbs. This is all bait fishing.

Captain Tony of the **Miss Freeport II** reports flounder catches good and getting more quantity and quality on a daily basis fishing local spots, both tides. Tony says his 10AM trips are

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getting more and more of a following and he is now sailing at 10AM seven days a week.

Captain Paul on the **Aloma II** reports he's catching loads of flounder of the half pound variety. Sunday's body count was 15-30 flatties a man, with a few porgies and weaks mixed in at local holes.

Charter boat **Shalidon** called to report that last Saturday's charter for Fred Jimenez had 350 lbs. of blues and bonito fishing off Patchogue. Wednesday's charter for Liberty Enterprises of Oceanside filled the box with 300 lbs. of blues, bonito and albies, same area. Friday's trip for Ted Stachin of Oceanside also pulled big blues 10-14 lbs., plus bonito at Patchogue's outer banks. Captain Arnold says the action is terrific and he will be booking a limited number of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday codfish charters for the fall.

Captain Bill of the **Ivory Queen** called to say Saturday's charter for Jim Caruso and party boated 35 blues at Cholera on bait. These were 4-6 lbers. and they also had a 17 lb. albie. High hook and albie-hooker was Bob Contino. Sunday's charter for Charlie Nolan and party scored with 6 skippies and one bonito fishing N.E. of the HA. Tuesday's charter for Frank Brotano and party bagged 10 skippies and 2 bonito at the HA on feathers and cedar jigs. Thursday's charter was a fantastic fluke day for Ed Schikness and party. Twenty-nine fluke up to 7 lbs. at Ambrose was the score. Ed had the 7 lber. High hook was Pat Taormina with nine fluke. All fish were jumbos on sand eels, killie, spearing. Saturday's charter for Ron Blymeyer scored with 12 skippies and 4 large albies. Frank Bretano returned on Sunday and bagged 53 blues to 6 lbs. at Cholera and 2 bonito. Action was best late in the day on butterfish and smelt. Phil says he is accepting cod charters as he will be sailing all winter.

The Capt. Lou III called to tell of excellent bay fishing. On Wed. Herb Schwartz had 53 keeper flounder. Sunday was excellent again. Mike Glas of Farmingdale had 49 good flounder, J. Taska of Flushing had 50 flounder, Dick and Joe of Atlantic Tire, Freeport, scored with 115 flounder. Joe Solomon of Howard Beach, age 9, had 45 keeper flounder. Captain Mike is working local spots and says there's plenty of flounder, with porgies and blacks and weaks mixed in. Flounder starting to take over. Largest of the week was nearly 3 lbs. Most fish are medium sized and getting fatter by the day. Plenty of double-headers and a lot of triples.

Captain Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin II** called to say Monday, Wednesday and Thursday was a slaughter on the blues fishing to the S.E. Blues ran to 16 lbs. with albies and bonito mixed in. Action was fast on split bananas, bananas and diamond jigs.

Captain Ed Geyer had the boat Friday and Saturday nights and also had good catches despite the heavy weather. On Sunday, the BF II fished again to the S.E. and loaded up on blues. The 18 lb. pool fish was caught by Howard Caible of Wantagh. The fish are feeding on huge sand eels. Captain Tony DiLernia had the **Blue Fin** out on Saturday and fishing locally in the bay had a good mixed bag of flounder, sea bass and porgies. High hook was 30 assorted fish.

Charter boat **Nan Sea** called to tell us that Sunday's charter for Glen Cove angler Ken Kozak trolled Cholera and had a 20 fish mixed bag of albacore, blues and bonito. Blues and bonito ran to 6 lbs. and the albies to 13 lbs. Captain Dan Polara also tipped us off that flounders are being caught from the pier in Reynolds Channel just west of the bridge.

Charter boat **Captain Joe** tells us Ridgefield, N.J. angler Luca Grasso was high hook and pool winner with 12 blues up to 12 lbs. The charter had 100 blues in all and was for Xerox Corp., headed up by Ron Franz. This was all on bait at Cholera.

A 53 lb. 8 oz. striped bass was gaffed up into the 14' tin boat of Greg Nisito of Freeport on Monday night. Greg, who works at Sea Isle Sports in Freeport, hooked and landed this monster all by himself, drifting a live bunker fishing off the construction dock in Jones Inlet at 11PM. It took 20 mins. to land this fish and it was Greg's largest bass ever—or so far.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports lousy weather, but great fishing. All boats in the Association loaded up on blues, bonito and albies over the weekend. On Saturday the **Nite Owl II** ran east for big choppers, **Acme II, Norsemen** and **North Star** bailed them at Cholera. Saturday the Acme II had Union Carbide out and they bailed 200 fish with Ray Noble accounting for 44 blues in the 3-6 lb. range. Sunday was lumpy, but the fish still obliged. The **Capt. Joe, Capt. II** and **Corsair** worked Cholera. It was good local fishing. The **Lady J II** and **Fisherman** stayed in the Bay Sunday and enjoyed good catches of small flounders, porgies, blacks and also a couple of fluke. Some kings and sea bass mixed in also. Saturday night, the Nite Owl II boated over 300 blues at Cholera on a charter for the Telephone Pioneers of America, from Poughkeepsie.

POINT LOOKOUT

From **Ed's Fishing Station** we learned that there has been very good blackfish action at both the Meadowbrook and Long Creek bridges. Fiddler crabs have been accounting for fish up to 6 lbs. The Riefe family including Ginger 5 and Shawn 7, returned with 35 blacks from the Meadowbrook on Sunday. Some flounders starting to show as evidenced by the catch made by two New Jersey anglers over the weekend. Bruno Grabier and Walt Stevens returned with 25 flatfish, most averaging ½ lb. but the two largest weighing in at 2 lbs. even and 2½ lbs. The pair made the catch on the flats using worm bait. Porgies and sea bass continue to provide some action for boatmen between buoys 20 and 16. Jennifer Silvers, all of 11 yrs. old, broke in her new rod last week with a 10½ lb. weak and 2 nice fluke taken in Reynold's Channel. Blues were trolled outside the inlet on umbrella rigs despite sloppy seas and some bass in the 10 to 14 lb. class were mixed with them.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie Beckmann told us of blackfish up to 3 lbs. being taken at the bridges on fiddler crabs. Quite a few small flounders being taken by worm fishermen, but Charlie mentioned that some of the flatties being kept by "anglers" are a disgrace. Give those little guys a chance fellas! On Sunday blues, bonito and albacore were taken in 40 to 50' of water despite very rough sea conditions. Plenty of sand porgies remain in Reynold's Channel.

The Commodore tells of good flounder activity Sunday to the tune of 20-30 good fish a man with sizes improving daily. Results have been best on change of tide and outoing water. Double headers were common fishing Reynolds Channel and buoys 16, 18 and sea dog creek. Some porgies mixed in. Clem says it looks like a good flounder run. Worms working best, then clam. Flounder are ½ to ¾ lbs. Lots of action. This coming weekend, the tides will be ev even better.

LONG BEACH

Tom at the **L.B. Sports Marina** knew of good blackfishing at the Atlantic Beach Bridge and the Silver Point Jetty. Flounder fishing now good in the local creeks and bluefish up to 16 lbs. being taken on the inside on live bunker and bunker chunks.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Henning's Fishing Station reports good blackfishing on fiddlers at the Atlantic Beach Bridge. Big blues and bass also at the bridge, this on bunkers. Small porgies are being taken in the bay along with some nice flounders. Sy mentioned Woodmere and Broad Channels as good flounder spots. On Friday, one boat returned with 9 nice fluke taken from between the high school and the railroad tressel. The Tin Can Grounds are still producing weaks

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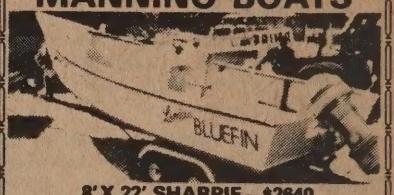

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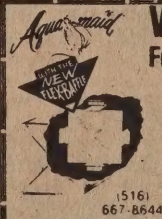

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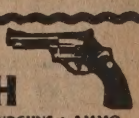

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along with some small blues for those trolling umbrella rigs and blues and weaks are also being taken at Ambrose. Blues and bonito in 50' of water for trollers.

captain Ronnie Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** called to report an excellent catch of fish for Sunday's charter, with a lot of blues up to 15 lbs. A few weaks and bonito also came over the size. An occasional schoolie bass has also been caught this past week on the boat. These fish are ranging from Long Beach, Rockaway, Breezy Point, Sandy Hook/Seabright. Sunday's charter for two men had 350 lbs. of mixed fish by noon, mostly 10 lbers. on Lupo umbrellas.

Skippie's Bait and Tackle reports on Sat. at 10AM, striped bass of 22, 24, 25 and 21 lbs. were taken from the surf at Long Beach on live bunker by Ken Hejbuzek, Vinnie Calabro and Tony Ambros, all of Rosedale. On Wednesday Jay Martin and Jack Sullivan collaborated to take 15.10 blue on live bunker fishing 2 miles out of Debs. Bay Park is producing small flounders, bigger porgies and some very big snappers.

JAMAICA BAY

John at **Cross Bay Bait & Tackle** reported there has been a noticeable improvement in the blackfishing at

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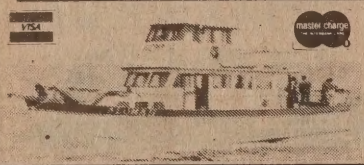

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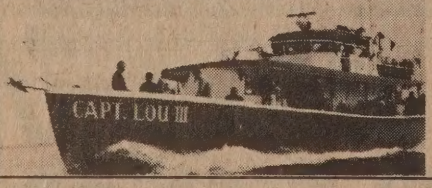

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the bridge. Best bait being fiddler crabs. Some nice size poriges along with the blacks on sand worms or blood worms. Still some nice catches of crabs being made in the area.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Atomic II** reported a rough fishing weekend due to poor weather. On Saturday and Sunday, fares picked at the fluke in the area with catches running 5-6 per person up to a 5 lb. pool fish. Last week fishermen took 16 fluke per person on spearing and smelt. A flattie of 7 lbs. took the pool on Tuesday. The boat's fluke derby is over and the winner of a $1085 prize was Sal the Butcher, with a fluke that tipped the scales at 10 lb. 12 oz. taken in mid-August. Congratulations, Sal! The Captain said that with the fluke season coming to an end, he will start bottom fishing starting on September 26.

Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** told us that most of the weekend was blown out by high winds. Blackfish and some porgies are being taken fishing the Jersey Coast and Seabright. On good days, catches ran from 15 to 25 blackfish per person taken on green crabs and fiddlers. Most fish are averaging 2-5 lbs., but a couple of 8-9 lbs. are also being taken. Last Monday's pool fish weighed in at 10¼ lbs.

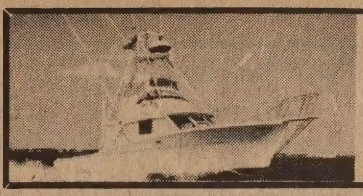
The **Big Mohawk II** did well this weekend considering the rotten weather. On Friday fished Seabright where fishermen hooked into some nice bonito action, fish running in the 6-8 lb. range. Also taken were albacore in the 10-12 lb. class and big porgies up to 4 lbs. On Saturday, a good pick was found at Klondike. Bonito were taken on bait along with one albacore. Catches averaged from 5-8 fish per person. Heavy seas on Sunday slowed most action, but Ambrose Tower did produce blues from 2-6 lbs. on bait along with some bonito and albacore. Most fishermen took 2-3 fish. The boat has a few open dates at the end of October for those fishermen who would like to get their last shot in on the blues. Call for reservations.

Mike's Bait and Tackle reports its a slaughter on 3-5 lb. bonito during the day when it's practically all bonito and very light on the bluefish. At night the blues take over again for boats working 17 Fathoms or Klondike. Big blackfish off the Jersey Coast on green crab with porgies mixed in. Weaks and blues off Coney Island and between Norton's point and the Tin Can on jigs.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's reports that snappers, porgies and crabs are keeping both young and old alike, busy at many of the local piers and docks. Inside Great Kills Harbor blues in the 10 to 12 lb. class and weaks up to 10 lbs. have been harassing the bunker schools during the evening and early morning hours. Three anglers checked in a catch of 26 blues up to 12 lbs. made Saturday a.m. from inside Great Kills Harbor out to the Bug Light. This was all on bunker bait. Lenny said that best action is had by sticking close to the bunker schools. Small blues, up to 2 lbs. from Great Kills Harbor to Princess Bay on tin or small bunker chunks. Some anglers pick a way at school bass on sand worms at Hoffman and Swinburn Islands. Flounder and blackfish have started to make a showing in many of the local spots.

★FREEPORT★



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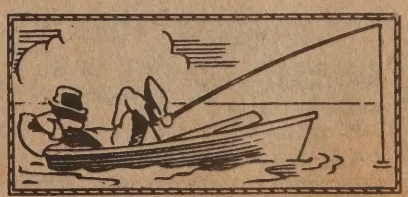
GREENPORT

A.P White Bait Shop reports good bluefishing continued in Pigeon Rip, at the Race and south of Fisher's Island. Most of the fish are being taken on diamond jigs. Flounders in good from East Marion to Orient. Small fish up to 2 lbs. in size. Blackfish aciton on the upswing and still snappers in the area. A few bass in the 20 lb. class being taken at the Sluiceway on bucktails and umbrella rigs.



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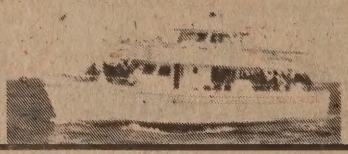

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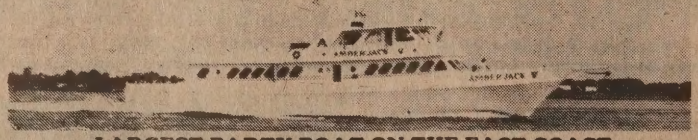

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Captain George Porter of the **Brand X** tells us Saturday and Sunday was dynamite on mostly jumbo porgies and that Sunday they loaded up with over 1500 porgies, mostly jumbos. Saturday was almost as good with individual catches even better. This is the third week of superb porgy catches and there were more double-headers than singles caught. Now that the boat has switched to giant blackfish, fares will be catching combinations of jumbo porgies and big blacks. Action has been in the deep water at Fisher's Island. George is also accepting charters for blues and blacks on his charterboat Prime Time.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reported very good flounder fishing at Orient. He named the area near the fish traps and Petty's Bight as being productive. The fish run up to 2 lbs. and are being taken on clams and worms. Still porgies in front of the station and at Petty's Bight on clams and worms. Blackfish getting bigger and more plentiful from Mulford Point to the Orient Light. Fiddlers and green crabs for the blacks. In the bay, blacks being taken off of Greenlawns and the brickyard. Porgies at buoy 16 and South Ferry along with a few weaks.

NEW SUFFOLK

At **Capt. Marty's Fishing Station** we received word of weaks, kings and porgies still at buoys 25, 28 and 30 as well as at Nassau Point and the Rose Grove. Better size porgies are found at Nassau Point. Squid takes the weaks and kings while worms and skimmers take the porgies.

NOYAC

Noyac Marina reports Mike Stromberg and father-in-law had weakfish in Noyac Bay on squid strips. Flounder also starting to show in Noyac Bay on bloodworms. Porgies and snappers are still obliging those interested in them. The Station will be closed Wednesday, October 1. They will be open 8-5 weekdays and 6-5 on weekends.

SAG HARBOR

The **Wilhelric** reports porgy fishing remains excellent and the blackfish are starting to show. Fares should now be able to bag up on both of these excellent eating fish.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle reports the porgy fishing remains okay and blackfishing continues to improve daily. Blacks being taken on fiddlers and green crabs. Still plenty of blues at Pigeon Rip for diamond jiggers and 1 to 3 lb. weakfish still being taken on squid strips in the bay.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★ BLUEFISH

ROCKY POINT

Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** tells of improved blackfishing along local beaches. Plenty of small blues still roaming the Sound for trollers and jiggers and some anglers scoring with big choppers well off the beach. Stan received very few reports over the weekend due to the weather.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station told us of plenty of porgies and snappers inside the harbor. Sunday's northeast winds kept most boats inside. Before the weekend big porgies were still being taken at Old Fieldn and Crane's Neck. Blues in the 2 to 4 lb. class at the Middle Grounds on jigs and umbrella rigs. Small blues also roaming Smithtown Bay where plug casters get a shot at them. Blackfishing is now very good for those using green crabs. The Buoy at Old Field Point has been one of the better producing spots. Plenty of good size snappers around the area.

Al at **Tackle Shack Sportsmens Center** in Medford tells us blackfish are beginning to make a very good showing from Mt. Sinai to Wadin River, best on fiddlers. Porgies also plentiful in the same area on clam and worm. Flounder small but plentiful. Blues and weaks can be trolled or jigged between buoys 11 and 9. Surfcasters heaving bunker chunks or any shiny jig will catch well in the AM or PM. Still plenty of snappers schooling up along the shore line from Pt. Jeff to Mt. Sinai. On the South Shore, crabs being taken off the Patchogue town dock along with an occasional weak or small blue.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait Shop reported the hectic aciton at the mouth of the river has slumped but that the blues are still scattered around the area. On Friday, Paul Bruno trolled along the beach at Sunken Meadow and returned with 15 blues in the 2 to 5 lb. class. Cooler weather this past weekend kept most anglers home.

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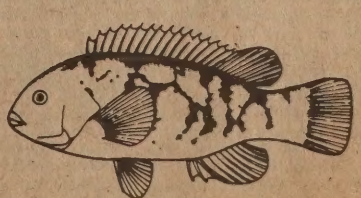

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To place an ad in *The Long Island Fisherman's* classified ad section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read, along with your check or money order for the full amount. *(Sorry, no billing.)* Rates for non-subscribers are 25-cents per word, 30 word ($7.50) minimum. Subscribers of *The Fisherman* receive a discount if they include the number off their subscription label. Classified rates for subscribers are: 20 cents per word, 30 word ($6.00) minimum. Discounts for extended runs: 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; and 50 times, 15%. to run a photograph with an ad, add $16.80 to the words.

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1976 AQUASPORT Family Fisherman 1976, 85 h.p. Evinrude. Full canvas, inst. panel; CB; depth finder. Compass, elect. wipers and bilge. In slip. Excl. condition. $5500. 212-456-3543.

1975 CHRIS CRAFT 22' Fiberglas Center Console Tournament Fisherman. 200 h.p V-8 Inboard. Depth finder; CB; head; spray hood; covers; dual batteries; dual bilge pumps; compass. Low hours. Excellent condition. After 1PM. 516-798-9839.

MAKO 25' 1976 Deep V. 200 h.p. Evinrude. Excellent condition. Hardly used. Full canvas; cushions; compass. Extras. Best Offer. Call Neil, evenings: 516-767-2684.

G/W 1978 GULFSTREAM 140 OMC. Dacron bridge canvas. Complete. Rod holders; radio; CG equipped. Many extras. In water. $9500. EDDIE'S MARINE. 212-327-3088.

19' 1976 GALAXY BOWRIDER, 120 h.p Merc I/O. Canvas. Neat. All equipment. $3675. EDDIE'S MARINE. 212-327-3088.

19' ARISTOCRAFT HARDTOP, 120 OMC. Like new. 1978. All CG equip. $5695. EDDIE'S MARINE. 212-327-3088.

22' 1979 SISU Inboard, lobster canopy hardtop, 4 cyl. Volvo engine, FWC. Fully equipped for sportfishing, loaded with extras. Four flush mount rod holders, automatic Loran C, CB radio, compass. Cuddy cabin with ample storage space and one bunk. Dual battery system. Stern controls and tiller bar. In the water, ready to go. Will demonstrate. Call Ken at 516-728-8566.

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1978 MAKO 25' Evinrude 235; total 95 hrs. Complete canvas, CB, depth finder, spotlight, ETC. Cleanest 25 available. $10,900. Weekdays 8-5. 516-582-4566.

1979 1979 EVINRUDES 1979 1979
2-$244; 4-$328; 6-$460; 9.9-$628; 15-$710; 25-$850; 35-$950; 50-$1197; 55-$1348; 70-$1538; 85-$1740; 100-$1810; 115-$1875- 140-$1975; 150-$2500; 175-$2580; 200-$2680; 235-$2860. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY 11563. Scott & McCulloch parts. FOB/H. 516-599-3003. We ship anywhere.

30' REPCO Fiberglas jonesport hull boat with 6 cylinder original Palmer engine rebuilt last year. Completely outfitted for professional sportfishing. Hardtop, 2 fish boxes, compass, Sitex white line graph recorder, CB radio, digital depth recorder, rod racks, cabin with one bunk, etc. $15,000. Call John at 516-668-5130. In water, ready to go, will demonstrate.

30' Wooden Lapstrake Boat, the kind they don't build anymore. Built like a tank, ribs 6" on center. Full keel and flybridge. Eight cylinder Palmer engine with only 400 hrs. Huge insulated fish box, tiller bar, dual batteries, cabin sleeps 2. Large cockpit with two fighting chairs. Excellent seaworthy boat for sportfishing or commercial fishing; for lobsters, light dragging, pinhookers, etc. Call Scott at 516-668-9369. $4000.

1978 GRADY WHITE KINGFISH, 25', 9½' beam. Twin Merc 470s, tabs. Custom electronics installation; Sitex; Datamarine, Dytek, horizon; audiovox; Pioneer. Sleeps 4; head, sink, ice box, stove. In water at Montauk. Westcher. 914-834-8661 Eves.

34' CUSTOM SPORTFISHING Machine. Fully equipped; all electronics. Excellent condition. Will demo. $6000. 516-581-2380.

1979 HYDRA-SPORTS 2100 Center Console. Fully rigged for shark fishing, offshore trolling, and all inshore fishing. Johnson 200 h.p. with SST prop. Deluxe console with tackle compartment. Rod racks; stainless railing. Stainless T-Top; compass, Sitex recorder; Horizon VHS and console cover. Other extras include stainless bow rail; teak tackle box seat and cover; bait rigging compartments; outriggers; built-in live well. Clean; professionally maintained and serviced. Call SHORE HAVEN MARINA, 201-892-6625. Reasonably priced.

24' 1974 SEA RAY 188 h.p. Merc. I/O, Cuddy; head. Complete canvas; VHF radio; Coast Guard equipment. $6950. EDDIE'S MARINE, 212-327-3088.

23' 3" SEACRAFT 1976 Sportfisherman Cuddy. Fully equipped. Twin 115 h.p. Evinrude; SST Props. Very clean. $9495. EDDIE'S MARINE. 212-327-3088.

30' SPORTSCRAFT 1972 Fiberglas; flybridge; Bimini top. Large cockpit; 440 Chrysler inboard; FW cooled, recently rebuilt. Hydraulic steering; 3 depth finders; CB & VHF radios. Outriggers. Built-in stereo player. More. $9500. 516-324-6708.

MUST SELL—FLORIDA BOUND—20' Center Console Chrysler '74, 130 h.p. OB Chrysler '77. Was asking $4800. Will take best offer OVER $3500. Evenings after 6:30. Must Sell. 516-725-4202.

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1972 FIBERFORM 24' 9' beam; VHF; CB; DF; compass; 225 h.p. I/O. Full Coast Guard equipment. Stand-up head, ice box, sink, stove. In water in Oyster Bay. 516-921-1534.

20' SEACRAFT 1978 MASTER ANGLER Center Console; depth finder; CB with weather; 70 gal. fuel tank; rod holders. Fish, Ice and Bait Boxes; custom seats. Excl. condition. In water. 981-8416.

27' SPORTCRAFT, Flybridge, twin 155 h.p. OMC. Trim tabs, outriggers, VHF radio. Excellent fishing; economical offshore boat. $6500. 516-589-6061.

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MAKO 1974 23' 225 h.p. I/O OMC. Excellent; galvanized tandem trailer; power winch; true course steering; live fish well. New dual batteries; stern and bow rails; bilge pump; rod racks; rod holders; outriggers. Fully enclosed console; custom rear seats. Full custom winter canvas. $7900. 516-931-2172 after 5PM.

'73 23' C.C. LANCER 200 h.p. Volvo I/O; full canvas, 2 bilge pumps; white line recorder; CB; VHF; 2 batteries. Rebuilt risers; compass; C.G. equip. Porta head. Low hours. Excl. condition. 212-377-4165.

1973 CHRIS CRAFT 19' Fiberglas V-8 Tri-hull; 200 h.p. I/O. Fully instrumented including tach., speedometer, compass, etc. Seats 9 adults; new canvas covers. Many extras. Excellent for fishing and skiing. Winterized every season; like new. Best Offer. 669-4842.

31' CHRIS CRAFT SPTFISHERMAN Fiberglas. Equipped for the serious fisherman. Loran; paper machine; depth finder; Dytech. Recent new engines twin 350 Chris Craft. Pompanette chair; outriggers; gin pole and washdown system. Will Demo. $24,000. 516-487-8022. Monday to Friday till 6:30 p.m.

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16' CENTER CONSOLE, custom craft Fiberglas. 1976 50 h.p. Merc; 7½ h.p. aux. Bimini top; Lowrance flasher. In water; excellent condition. $2200. 458-2354 after 6PM.

20' ATLANTIC FIBERGLAS, 1977 85 h.p. Evinrude; 25 h.p. spare. Recessed rod holders; canvas; windshield; non-slip carpet. Bilge pump & switch; tachometer. New compass; horn; 2 batteries. All new wiring & panel; 1979 CG exam. Fire exting.; trailer; anchor; 25 gal. built-in tank. Three, 6-gal. tanks. Windshield wiper. Great inshore boat. Must be seen. Will demo for int. party. Fishing Montauk NOW. $4500. 914-698-5562. "LORI-JAN"

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MAKO 19' 1975, 115 Johnson. Bimini; spray hood; compass. Full gauges; VHF; depth finder, Morse controls; outriggers. Coast Guard pkg. Rod holders; giant ice chest. Excellent condition. $4500 Evenings. 914-937-3193.

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NORTHPORT

Tom Bowman told us that big blues roam Lloyd's Harbor where anglers have been scoring on whole or cut bunker. Smaller blues in the 4 to 6 lb. class still being taken at the Obstruction Buoy on diamond jigs and umbrella rigs. Small porgies inside the harbor off of Steers Dock while bigger porgies can be found out in the Sound off of Sunken Meadow and Makamah. Blackfish starting to show at Buoys 11B and 13 and bass being taken at Eaton's Neck by clam chummers and wire line bucktailers. These are mostly school fish up to 10 or 12 lbs. Loads of butterfish and snappers up to 10" at the town dock.

HUNTINGTON

George at **Four Winds** reported that Saturday and Sunday slammer blues in the 8 to 16 lb. class invaded Huntington Harbor. Bunker baits and large swimming plugs accounted for many of the big choppers. Some bass at buoy 13, Eaton's Neck on wire line and bucktails. These fish are n the 4 to 10 lb. class. Bluefish ranging anywhere from 3 all the way up to 16 lbs. taken on diamond jigs between the Obstruction Buoy and 11B before the weekend. Blackfish up to 6 lbs. at buoys 13 and 11B on fiddlers and green crabs and plenty of sand porgies along with a few weaks inside the bay.

From **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** we received word that big blues roam the harbor on Saturday and Sunday. The fish were being taken on bunker and ran up to 16 lbs. in weight. Mark Rinaldo weighed in such a fish on Friday. Blackfish in the 3 to 4 lb. class being taken on fiddlers at Eaton's Neck and off of Makamah. Some nice porgies remain at Eaton's Neck also on worms and clams. Small blues were up on top Saturday a.m. at buoy 13. The 2 to 3 lb. fish were taken on jigs, plugs and tins.

captain Don of the **Ever Ready** tells us his early morning bluefish trips are putting lots of blues in the fishbox. Al Cordova took Saturday morning's pool with a 12½ lb. blue. Saturday's trips will now sail at 6AM rather than 5Am. Twelve year old Chris Lanzillotti had the first bluefish of the day and George Merrits had the pool with an 8½ lb. blue. Please note the boat will run a †AM and a 5PM Columbus Day special.

COLD SPRING Hbr.

At **Salty's Bait & Tackle** we learned that Paul Phillips checked in a 19 lb. blue taken last week on a live bunker in the harbor. Charlie Esposito had 20 poriges along with 4 weakfish while fishing the Oyster Bay Channel over the weekend. Tom reported that blackfishing has been improving daily and that they now

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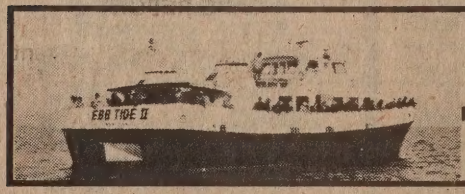
★CITY ISLAND★



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have green crabs in stock. Flounder have also begun to make a showing and it is hoped that the cool weather will improve this fishing significantly over the next week or two.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★
BLUEFISH

GLEN COVE

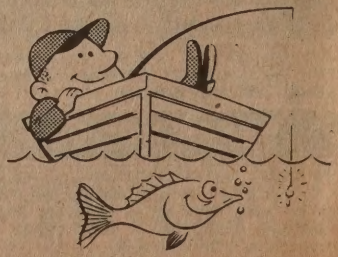
Lady Lil II reports things were slow over the weekend due to the severe wind conditions, but by Sunday afternoon, they were able to run to Stanford at around 2PM where they bailed out with roughly a dozen blues up to 14½ lbs.

In the early part of the week, the boat was working the Ct. side for blues 6-19 lbs., catching from 2-20 a man, working on a new body of fish. Later in the week they were getting loads of blues from Mattinecock Pt. to City Island. Best has been around Execution Rock, fish 2-14 lbs. all on diamond jigs. Good weaks have been mixed in, 7-10 lbers.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait & Tackle reported that big blues still remain at Execution Light. Bucktails and tubes take many of the fish. One angler on Saturday returned with 35 of the choppers ranging in weight from 8 to 10 lbs. Plenty of blues stretched from Execution Light all the way to Hempstead Harbor, said Jack. Porgy fishing remains good and blackfishing picking up daily. Flounders have begun showing up in catches and plenty of snappers and butterfish being taken behind the new school. Jack added that good bass fishing continues at Hart's and High Islands on worms, bucktails and small swimming plugs. Some of these fish go up to 8 or 10 lbs.

Captain Pete of the **Lucky Star** reports diamond jigs are accounting for blues and weaks up to 15 lbs. in local waters within a half hour of the dock.



SURF REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Bluefish make up the bulk of this week's surf report. Choppers made an appearance at points scattered from one end of the island to the other. Casters tossing eels, bunker and mackerel chunks, have been doing most of the damage. In some areas, tins and popping plugs took fish but these were usually smaller blues in the 3 to 6 lb. class. Bait fishermen scored with choppers in the teens at a number of south shore beaches as well as at City Island, Huntington Harbor and along north fork beaches. A few bass reports from scattered areas but nothing worth getting excited over. For what it's worth, bass were harassing mullet in the Gilgo surf Friday a.m., first hour of outgoing. A number of fish rose to slowly work blue poppers but would not take. They showed no interest at all in any other artifical. All of the activity was right in the wash but there was no evidence of the fish the next two mornings at the same location.

Anyone wishing to contribute info to the surf reports can reach Fred during the week at 516-725-4200 or at 516-567-3563 weekends or evenings. If you think you have something that might be of some help or interest to other casters, do not hesitate to call.

SOUTH SHORE: EAST END

Out at Montauk we got word from **Johnny's Tackle Shop** that a 30 lb. striper was taken on Friday, but there was little else to report about the catch. A couple of bass along with some blues taken on tin along the south side in recent days. John mentioned Hither Hills and Gurney's as having produced some recent action. The best way to describe action at Montauk lately is "picky". Wind and surf conditions over the weekend made fishing up front nearly impossible. Early last week there was a flurry of activity with bass, blues and weaks under the light on darters and bottle plugs. Nothing since then.

Thom at **Speck's Bait & Tackle** said that blues come and go along local beaches. No real steady action, you just have to be in the right place at the right time. Thom is hoping that the October moon will help stir the bass.

Richie Simmons and Paul Smith fished Smith's Point last weekend and took 15 blues in the 4 to 6 lb. class between them. There was no evidence of fish on the surface. It was all blind casting with poppers and tins.

Wally at **Buoy 2 Sport Shop** in East Islip told me of a fine catch of blues he looked over last Monday. Tony Quonnones beached 15 blues up to 14½ lbs. at Democrat Point. Tony took all the fish on live eels. It is worth mentioning here that Wally is well supplied with live eels.

SOUTH SHORE: WEST END

At **The Store** in Oak Beach, Hays had news of the bluefish action along the beach front. Last Monday Charlie Tuna and Freddie fished down at the Pines and did a job on blues averaging 8 lbs. All the action was on live eels with Freddy alone leaving the beach with 200 lbs of choppers according to Hays. Bobby "Friar Tuck" Sandora weighed in a 15 lb. blue taken on a live eel at Cedar. Thursday p.m., Hays teamed with John Fritz to take several blues at Tobay also on live eels. Hays knew that casters took fish Saturday evening at Cedar Beach. **The Store** also has live eels in stock for those looking for big bluefish and bass.

Jerry Lambert used bunker chunks at Tobay last Thursday to take 3 blues from 5 to 8 lbs. Mickey McCormick who reported this catch also passed along word of lively action at Tobay Monday evening.

From **Ed's Fishing station** in Point Lookout, we learned that two casters checked in a pair of stripers from 10 to14 lbs. The fish were taken Saturday morning at the Point Lookout jetty on popping plugs.

Sy Rubin at **Henning's Fishing Station**, Atlantic Beach, said that casters continue to pick a way at both bass and blues at the Silver Point Jetty. Most of the action has been on bait, either eels or bunker chunks.•

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle passed along word that a few big blues in the 10 to 12 lb. class have been taken by anglers fishing the bridges on bunker chunks.

Over on Staten Island, Lenny of **Santo's** knew that casters continue to take 10 to 12 lb. choppers on bunker chunks from New Dorp to Great Kills. Some school bass up to 5 lbs. being taken at Oak Wood on worms and at Cliff St. on small bucktails.

NORTH SHORE: WEST END

Two big blues, one 11½ the other 17 lbs., were weighed in by Dan Logan and Bill Hitt at **Jack's Tackle Shop** in City Island. Both fish were taken on bunker chunks in Turtle Cove. Some bass up to 10 lbs. have been mixed with big blues at Turtle Cove and also at Orchard Beach this past week according to Jack.

In Huntington, Ronnie of **Ronnie's Tackle Shop**, weighed in blues of 11½ and 12¾ lbs. for Tor Torkelsen. Tor took the fish on bunker at Caumsett over the weekend. Ronnie had no news of bass along the beaches.

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait & Tackle** passed along news of some big blues up to 16 lbs. being taken by casters along the harbor shore. George suggested driving the length of West Shore Road and looking for bluefish attacking the bunker schools. Best action has been from high water to three hours down in this area.

At **Bowman's** in Northport, I was told that blues up to 12 and 13 lbs. have been harassing the bunker near the power plant. The fish come and go and you just have to be there when they hit the beach. Bunker chunks as well as popping plugs have taken the big choppers.

NORTH SHORE: EAST END

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** knew that casters have been taking blues averaging 6 lbs. at Horton's Point and Kenny's Beach. Tins and plugs take most of the fish, but the bigger blues are usually taken on bait. A couple of bass have started showing along with the blues in this area.

At **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** Stan told us that there has been some bluefish action along with a scattering of bass along local beaches. Before the weekend, an occasional big bluefish would be taken by bait fishermen.

Art White reported that a few bass are being taken along the beach from Horton's Point to Orient. Blues in the 4 to 6 lb. class along the same stretch of beach on popping plugs. Bigger blues up to 9 lbs. mixed in.

CAPE REPORT

Plenty of big blues still present in the canal as well as out on the Cape. Regulars have been scoring well with big stripers on live eels for the past week or two. Some manage 4 to 6 fish a night. An occasional fish is taken on plugs but most of the action is on live eels. We heard from a reliable source that over 10 fish in the 50 lb. class were taken from the Cape surf a week ago Wednesday.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	—	12:27	12:43	1:11	12:20	12:49	1:42	2:00	2:30	2:46	3:29	3:48	12:09	12:37	9/27
FRI.	12:45	1:22	1:35	2:09	1:13	1:44	2:39	2:56	3:17	3:35	4:24	4:45	1:03	1:34	9/28
SAT.	1:46	2:23	2:39	3:12	2:18	2:48	3:43	4:02	4:09	4:29	5:24	5:47	2:06	2:37	9/29
SUN.	2:55	3:32	3:46	4:21	3:29	4:00	4:49	5:07	5:07	5:29	6:29	6:53	3:11	3:42	9/30
MON.	4:09	4:41	4:57	5:26	4:45	5:12	5:51	6:13	6:12	6:35	7:32	7:58	4:15	4:42	10/1
TUE.	5:17	5:44	5:59	6:26	5:54	6:18	6:48	7:10	7:21	7:48	8:33	8:59	5:11	5:39	10/2
WED.	6:16	6:42	6:56	7:21	6:53	7:14	7:41	8:07	8:37	9:03	9:30	9:57	6:06	6:32	10/3
THUR.	7:09	7:32	7:50	8:13	7:45	8:05	8:31	8:59	9:45	10:11	10:23	10:51	6:57	7:23	10/4

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

9/3	6:27	7:32
9/8	6:32	7:23
9/13	6:37	7:14
9/18	6:43	7:06
9/23	6/48	6:57

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/21	9/29	9/6	9/13

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	9:50	4:05	10:15	4:30
Fri.	10:45	5:00	11:10	5:25
Sat.	11:45	5:55	—	6:25
Sun.	12:05	6:45	12:40	7:15
Mon.	12:55	7:40	1:30	8:10
Tues.	1:50	8:30	2:25	9:00
Wed.	2:40	9:20	3:15	9:50
Thurs.	3:35	10:10	4:05	10:40